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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Walkout

Western diplomats walked out of a U.N. conference when Iran's president called Israel the "most racist regime."

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Top Dog

Porterhouse finally nabbed "top dog" honors in the annual Beautiful Bulldog Contest.

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Another \$771,000 to help NMI through recession. **PAGE 5**

Only 150 of 329 govt officials submit financial disclosures

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Only 150 or less than half of 329 government officials have filed their financial disclosures

for calendar year 2008, barely two weeks before the May 1 deadline.

The 329 required filers include elected officials, judicial officers, appointed department

and agency heads, members of boards and commissions, and those who serve as independent contractors for the CNMI government.

Public auditor Michael Pai

said only 150 government officials have filed their statement of financial interest as of April 20. This represents only about 46 percent of the required filers. "But I have faith that major-

ity of them will come in before the deadline," Pai told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He added that the Office of the Public Auditor will be send-

See **ONLY** on Page 4

Guangzhou charters to resume in June

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino will resume charter flights from Guangzhou, China, starting June this year, according to hotel manager Tom Liu.

He said Tinian Dynasty board chair Michael Kwan made the decision yesterday.

The company terminated the Guangzhou charters in September last year due to high fuel costs and the downturn in the Chinese economy.

The charter flights will resume on June 15 through the end of November 2009.

The company, Liu said, may continue the flights beyond the

See **GUANGZHOU** on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Northern Marianas Academy students take a close look at a live brown tree snake in a glass case in yesterday's 2009 Environmental Expo at the Kagman Community Center where exhibitors featured energy-efficient products, interactive demonstrations on environmental protection, promotion of a healthy lifestyle, cultural preservation and appreciation, and fire safety. See **story** on Page 6.

'Criteria for evaluating Fernandez incomplete'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of the Northern Marianas College faculty have raised concerns about the criteria set by the Board of Regents in evaluating the performance of NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Fernandez

See **CRITERIA** on Page 4

FROM METRO TRAINS TO LATE NIGHT MEETINGS A delegate's life in Washington, DC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

CNMI Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan and Tony Babauta walk along the corridor of Longworth House Building. Babauta is the staff director of the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Insular Affairs. Inset shows Sablan looking at a menu at Raku, a restaurant in Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C. "I want white rice," Sablan says. He ended up ordering a chicken soba.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

He rides the metro train going to and from work seven days a week, lives by himself in a nondescript studio-type apartment in Columbia Heights, and orders sandwiches or Chinese food for dinner if committee meetings don't hold him up until late at

See **DELEGATE** on Page 4



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Local

Prosecution rests its case vs Villagomez, Santos

- No witnesses called for Villagomez, Santos
- Closing arguments set to begin tomorrow

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The prosecution rested yesterday its case in the ongoing jury trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos, with former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony C. Guerrero completing his testimony.

After a discussion with prosecution and defense lawyers, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson scheduled the closing arguments for Thursday, April 23, at 8:30am. Munson excused the jurors and told them to return on Thursday.

David J. Lujan, Victorino Torres, and Ramon Quichocho, counsels for Villagomez, James Santos, and Joaquina Santos respectively, told Munson they would not call any witness.

Munson also denied yesterday the defendants' motion for a judgment of acquittal.

Guerrero took the witness stand last Thursday.

After Torres and Quicho-

cho, Lujan began his extensive cross-examination of Guerrero last Friday. Lujan resumed his questioning of the former CUC executive director on Monday and completed the cross-examination yesterday at 11:05am.

Leilani Lujan, a co-counsel



for Villagomez, moved for judgment of acquittal. Lawyers Victorino and Quichocho joined in the motion.

The defense lawyers argued that the prosecution failed to present enough evidence to support the charges of conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses

against the United States, wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

Leilani Lujan said the prosecution failed to show evidence that would satisfy the elements of the charges against Villagomez.

Saying there was no conspiracy, Leilani Lujan noted, among other things, that Guerrero had testified that he had no agreement with any of the defendants to defraud and commit offenses against the United States.

Leilani Lujan said there's absolutely no evidence presented that Villagomez accepted a bribe in the purchase of Rydlyme.

"All we have are speculations and innuendos," she said, adding that there was not even circumstantial evidence to support the bribery charges.

Torres said there's no evidence that the \$15,000 given by Joaquina Santos to Villagomez

If Villagomez is convicted, what's next for NMI?

By **KRISTI EATON**
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REPORTER

With the trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez nearing its end, the question arises: What happens if the CNMI's second-in-command is found guilty?

According to the CNMI Constitution, no person convicted of a felony in the CNMI or any other U.S. jurisdiction is eligible to hold the Office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor unless a full pardon has been granted. Villagomez would need a presidential pardon because the federal government is trying the case.

In case of the removal, death, or resignation of the governor, the lieutenant governor shall become governor and the president of the Senate shall become lieutenant governor, according to the Constitution. However, it is not specified what will happen in the case of the lieutenant governor.

"If the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor are both vacant, the president of the Senate shall become acting governor and the speaker of the House shall become acting lieutenant governor," the Constitution states.

If the governor is physically absent from the Commonwealth, the lieutenant governor assumes the position. If the lieutenant governor is absent or otherwise unavailable, the presiding officer of the Senate assumes the role.

Villagomez, along with his sister Joaquin San-

tos, and then-Commerce Secretary James Santos, are on trial for allegedly bilking the CNMI government out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless purchases of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Closing arguments in the case will start tomorrow.

Throughout the three-week trial, Villagomez has remained in his role as lieutenant governor, although he has not been reporting to the office because he has been in court each day.

According to the Constitution, the governor and lieutenant governor are subject to impeachment for treason, committing a felony, corruption, or neglect of duty.

In February, Rep. Tina Sablan authored a resolution that would have created a committee to investigate the allegations against Villagomez and report recommendations on whether there was cause for impeachment. Sablan was the only House member to support the resolution.

Gov. Benigno Fitial decided to skip a planned Department of the Interior-sponsored business summit earlier this month in light of Villagomez's trial.

"Unfortunately, I informed [Office of Insular Affairs] Nik Pula I will not be able to attend because I feel it will be a disservice on my part when my lieutenant governor is undergoing a court hearing," the governor said on April 2, days after the start of the trial.

was a form of bribe.

With respect to the 2007 purchase of Rydlyme, Torres said that James Santos only sent an e-mail to CUC and delivered the product. The lawyer said James Santos did not use his position as then Commerce Secretary to get the contract.

He said there was no false pretense on James Santos part and in fact at the time when he delivered Rydlyme to CUC he even showed two invoices.

Quichocho said the testimony of the government's witnesses showed there is absolutely no agreement between the defendants.

"By that alone the conspiracy fails," Quichocho said.

O'Malley asserted that there is more than enough evidence to support all the charges.

In denying the motion, Munson ruled that the evidence presented is sufficient to sustain a conviction.

\$120K bail for man accused of sexually abusing a Rota minor

A Superior Court judge has imposed a \$120,000 cash bail for the temporary release of a 32-year-old man who is accused of sexually abusing a female minor on Rota in 2005 and 2007.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona also set many bail conditions for Jimmy John Castro Mendiola, also known as Jim.

Police arrested Mendiola at the Sinapalo Airport on Rota Friday morning. He is facing charges of sexual assault in the first degree, sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and assault.


Preliminary hearing was set for April 30, while arraignment is on May 4.

Rota Department of Public Safety detective Francis B. Manglona stated in his report that they received the sexual assault complaint on April 13.

Manglona said the first alleged sexual assault happened in April 2005 when the victim was only 9 years old.

The detective said the second alleged incident occurred on May 6, 2005, followed on Nov. 4 and 13, 2007.


The girl was allegedly scared to report the abuses and that Mendiola allegedly once promised to give her a \$50 allowance. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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DATE: Friday, 24 April 2009

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Adoption of Minutes
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Old Business
 - None
- VII. New Business
 - RCGC Administrative Budget
 - Business Forms/Applications
- VIII. Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ **Diego M. Songao**
Chairman

Another \$771,000 to help NMI through recession

HHS formula grants now total \$4.5 million

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Another \$770,658 formula grant has been made available to the Northern Marianas, according to CNMI Rep. Gregorio C. Sablan yesterday.

The money is distributed under the Community Service Block Grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Con-

gress in February.

"This money is intended to go to community organizations in our islands to help those who are having a hard time making ends meet," said Sablan. "The Commonwealth is required to hand over 99 percent of the funds to community groups. So this is really a wonderful opportunity not only to provide assistance to the those most in need, but also to build up our

non-governmental community services."

Under terms of the law, organizations receiving CSBG fund-

ON THE NET

<http://sablan.house.gov>

ing must use the resources to reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities, and assist low-income families become

self-sufficient.

For instance, nationwide community action agencies help with job training and placement. They also conduct financial counseling to help people deal with debt.

The funds can also be used for housing assistance to help keep Americans in their homes and for nutritional assistance to make sure families at risk have enough to eat.

"Because of the tough economic times," said Sablan,

"Congress increased funding for Community Service Block Grants in the Recovery Act by \$300 million over the program's regular annual budget."

The CSBG money is one of six grants—totaling \$4.5 million—so far awarded to the Northern Marianas through the Recovery Act. These include:

Nutrition Services \$60,625
Medicaid and Prescription Drug Program \$1,523,000

Section 317 Immunization Funding \$337,000

Child Care and Development Program \$1,823,015

Community Services Block Grant \$770,658

Total \$4,514,298

All of the funds have been awarded by noncompetitive formula. The amounts are based on a variety of factors such as population, number of children, and number of families below the federal poverty line.

For more information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and about funding for the Northern Marianas go to <http://sablan.house.gov>. (PR)

Sablan disagreed with Fitial on stabilization fund disbursement

By KRISTI EATON

kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan wrote to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan earlier this month urging the Secretary not to grant Gov. Benigno Fitial's request for more flexibility in the allocation of stabilization funds.

On March 4, Fitial, along with the governors of other insular areas, wrote President Obama and Duncan to ask that the Department of Interior be given authority over the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The governors said the outlying areas have unique needs that the Interior understands. The law states that the Education Secretary would consult with the Interior Secretary about fund disbursement.

Sablan, in his letter to Arne, said it is true the insular areas are different from the U.S. mainland but asked the Secretary to follow the law as is, so the money could be disbursed quickly.

"I wish to express my hope that this aid will be allocated quickly and in accordance with the guidelines set forth in ARRA for State Fiscal Stabilization Fund," he said. "We have many government employees facing layoffs and many schools and

children that need immediate assistance. The Northern Marianas do not need additional flexibility or more time to debate the use of these funds."

The CNMI is expected to receive \$43 million in stabilization funds.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, earlier said the issue is moot because Fitial's request was denied.

In his letter, Sablan noted that Congress spent many hours debating and deciding on how the money should go to schools and how much to other services.

"The strategy for disbursement suggested by the governors will not only delay the distribution of this money, it will also contravene congressional intent that ARRA funds

provide great relief to our schools in addition to helping the government address other critical needs," he wrote.

The original letter to Obama has caused some controversy

here in the CNMI.

Members of the Public School Board of Education said Fitial did not give them the courtesy to tell the board he was writing Obama to request the change in

funding allocation.

It was also learned that Fitial's signature on the letter was forged, something both the House and Senate discussed during their sessions last week.

However, press secretary Reyes said the issue is moot because Fitial signed the letter later while he was in Washington D.C., and his request was ultimately denied.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

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Judge denies motion to prevent Pelisamen from raising defense

The federal court has denied the U.S. government's motion to prevent former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen from raising a defense that he relied on the advice of a former counsel who is now a fugitive.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ruled that for the court to grant the motion, it—rather than the jury—would need to in effect make a determination of guilt or innocence before any

evidence has been presented to the jury.

"This it cannot do. Further, it is premature to make any determination about jury instructions until all the evidence has been received. At that point

both parties can argue their positions to the court," Munson said.

Pelisamen and attorney Joseph Aldan Arriola are facing charges of wire fraud and money laundering for stealing

\$625,575 from the Rita Kaipat estate's account.

The U.S. government filed a motion for an order precluding Pelisamen or any of his witnesses from raising a good faith/advice of counsel defense at any time during the trial. The prosecution also

asked the court to deny any requested jury instruction for such defense.

Douglas Cushnie, lawyer for Pelisamen, opposed the motion, arguing that the government is attempting to short-circuit the trial process. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

GUANGZHOU

From Page 1

original schedule, depending on the final rules that will be issued on the visa waiver program.

The Department of Homeland Security has delayed by 180 days the federal immigration transition in the CNMI, along with the enforcement of the June 1 visa waiver program that excludes the China

and Russia markets. The CNMI government is pushing for the inclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists in the program.

Liu said that Kwan had discussed with China Southern Airlines a plan for the carrier to permanently fly to the CNMI.

"Finally, with the reasonable fuel prices and signs of recovery in China's economy, Tinian Dynasty Travel decided to take this aggressive effort to charter the twice weekly flights again," Liu said.

He said the Guangzhou charters will use a Boeing 757 jet with seating capacity of 200 and will fly every Monday and Friday weekly.

He disclosed that Kwan also signed an agreement with China Southern to operate an Airbus 330 aircraft with a seating capacity of 264 from July 15 to Aug. 20, 2009, during the school holiday period.

In addition to the Guangzhou charters, Liu said the company

is also negotiating with Air China to start twice-weekly charters from Beijing.

This negotiation is also in collaboration with its partner, Century Tours.

Liu disclosed that Shanghai Airlines will also add two extra weekly flights from mid-July through end of August this year.

13K Chinese visitors in next 7 months

With the additional charters

from the China market, Tinian Dynasty estimates an additional 13,000 Chinese visitors to come to the CNMI in the next seven months.

He said the company had also asked the Marianas Visitors Authority to re-start promotional and advertising efforts in the southern region of China to promote the Guangzhou flights.

Additional funds are also being sought from MVA for the Northern China market in prep-

aration for the Beijing flights.

Currently, Tinian Dynasty is getting two Shanghai Airlines flights from Shanghai each week. Each flight has 222 seats shared equally by Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty Travel.

MVA earlier said that some 40,000 tourists from China and Russia are expected this year. The CNMI welcomed about 27,000 Chinese visitors and about 7,000 Russian visitors in calendar year 2008.

CRITERIA

From Page 1

In a recent meeting, members of the faculty senate pointed out that the "invitation" to provide input on Fernandez's evaluation focuses solely on her work on NMC's accreditation.

Frank Sobolewski, the honorary senate faculty president, said yesterday that faculty members believe there are other impor-

tant categories that are missing in the board-approved criteria in evaluating the president.

"What the board approved was an evaluation form that limits [the evaluation to] the president's accreditation work. The question of the faculty members is: Will the president be evaluated based solely on this standard?" Sobolewski said.

In a letter to Sobolewski on April 15, Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda said the

decision to invite all faculty and students to submit their input on the president's evaluation is pursuant to board policy.

"The primary goal set by the regents was to focus on accreditation work so that the college would achieve reaffirmation," Cepeda said, adding that they specifically requested the faculty's input—through Sobolewski—on the president's performance regarding accreditation.

Cepeda's letter indicated that responses to the evaluation form must focus only on this issue.

"Please restrict your responses to answering the questions that are expressed on the attached evaluation instrument," Cepeda told Sobolewski, urging him to summarize the faculty's input in a manner that "accurately and fairly" represents their collective opinion.

The board, *Saipan Tribune* learned, would accept one submission from each of the three major campus constituents—students, staff, and faculty.

In the four-page evaluation

form, it indicated that "the primary goal and objective set by the Board of Regents for the president was to focus on accreditation work so that the college would achieve accreditation reaffirmation."

Cepeda earlier said the same evaluation form would be used by each regent in rating the president.

Missing categories

Sobolewski said, however, that there's a need to raise the faculty's concern to the Board of Regents because Fernandez's evaluation should cover all aspects of her performance as NMC president.

Sobolewski says he had passed the evaluation form to all 60 instructors and non-instructional faculty members of the college.

"We believe that there are some other things that must be included in the evaluation form such as the personnel and financial issues and how these affect the president's responsibilities," he said.

The senate faculty has yet to finalize any official communication to the board.

All evaluation forms must be received by Sobolewski Friday noon. The board expects the faculty to submit its evaluation on April 30, with an oral presentation from the group's representatives.

Fernandez's two-year contract expires on May 6.

The deliberation as well as the decision whether or not to renew the president's contract is set for May 5.

Evaluation form

The board-approved performance evaluation contains two parts. The first part comprises six questions that will be answered as outstanding, above satisfactory, satisfactory, limited, or not acceptable.

The following are Fernandez's areas of responsibilities that faculty members are being asked to rate:

- Ensures institutional adherence to accreditation standards set by the Western Association

of Schools and Colleges/Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges;

- Fulfills recommendations set by the accrediting commission and the visiting teams;

- Submits all requisite reports in a timely manner to WASC/ACCJC;

- Plans, coordinates, and prepares for WASC/ACCJC team visits; and

- Maintains professional working relationship with WASC/ACCJC staff and representatives.

Evaluators are also asked to provide any additional comments they may have on the president's performance relating to these goals.

The same document asks raters to specify recommendations and suggestions for goals and objectives for the upcoming year in evaluating the college president.

"Please identify specific goals and objectives that the board of regents should consider in its consultations and discussions with the president," it says.

ONLY

From Page 1

ing staffers to Rota on Thursday and Tinian on Friday to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials.

In previous years, over 500 government officials were required to file their financial disclosures.

Pai said OPA receives the certified list of required filers from

the Department of Finance.

The Government Ethics Code Act of 1992 set the deadline for filing verified statements of financial interest on May 1. However, it gives required filers a 30-day grace period.

Beginning June 1, late filers will be assessed a \$10 fine for each day of non-compliance.

Unlike in many other jurisdictions, CNMI law does not provide for financial statements to be made public. OPA can only release the documents with consent from the filer.

DELEGATE

From Page 1

night in Washington, D.C.

Three months into the job as the CNMI's first non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress and Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan says he is learning every single day.

"I believe there's something to be learned everyday. I could be there for 10 years and I'm still learning," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview two days before he was due to go back to the nation's capital.

Sablan, 54, won the nine-way congressional race on Nov. 4, 2008. He sealed his victory when the absentee ballots were counted for a total vote of 2,474 on Nov. 18, just in time for the orientation in Washington, D.C. for new members of the U.S. House of Representative for the 111th Congress.

That's when he got his first BlackBerry, courtesy of the U.S. Congress to be able to contact its members when needed.

"Are there moments I'm very lonely [in Washington, D.C.]?"

Yeah. There are moments I want to be home. ... Mostly on weekends when it's not very busy. I miss my family, I miss my friends, I miss people in the Northern Mariana Islands," he said.

In moments like those, he either goes to church about a block away from his office at the Cannon Building in the Capitol Complex, or goes for a long walk. He does not have a car.

Taking the metro

Just like on Saipan, his day starts at 4am. He walks for 10 minutes from his apartment to the train station. During rush hour, the train comes every five to seven minutes. He transfers to another station before reaching the Capitol either before 7:30am or 8:30am.

"The train ride takes about 20 to 25 minutes... Coming back home usually takes longer because the frequency of the train is every 15 to 20 minutes," he said.

He usually leaves the office at 8:30pm or 9pm, except when there are meetings. When they were discussing the American Recovery and Reinvestment

Act of 2009, they didn't get off work until after 11pm.

Just like the other 440 voting and non-voting members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Sablan needs to walk from one building to another, take the tunnels or ride the elevator to attend one meeting after the other.

The exercise at work kept his spirit high at the 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship on Saturday.

Curious about NMI

Sablan, a former executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, also appreciates the immense volume of resources and information available to congressional members.

"And the amount of material that needs to be read is amazing... materials for hearings, testimony... it's just not humanly possible to read it all. So staff members usually read them and summarize the important ones, those specific to concerns we may have," he said.

He has eight staff members in Washington, D.C. including Bob Schwalbach, a former

senior policy adviser for then Gov. Juan N. Babauta, and former assistant attorney general Arin Greenwood. He has three staffers on Saipan.

Sablan said there are still members of the U.S. Congress who are curious about the CNMI, asking him questions about its population or "what's life like out there?" He said he has not been asked a question about the CNMI that does not deserve an answer.

Islander

Many members of the U.S. Congress are each representing or voted by hundreds of thousands of people. In the CNMI, an official holds a position by only hundreds or thousands of votes.

"But there, we get to sit on the same table," said Sablan, who is a member of two committees. He is also a member of two subcommittees for each committee.

Even though he wears a coat and tie most of the week, Sablan said he will always consider himself an islander. "I will not be a Washingtonian. Washington is just a place where I work," said

the father of six, the youngest of whom is 16 years old.

"In Washington, if somebody says the meeting starts at 11am, it starts at exactly 11am. If they say you have five minutes to speak, you have exactly five minutes. You will be told if your time is up," he said.

Star turn

He and other new members of Congress get to have regular breakfast with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, along with special guests, he said, including Bono of U2 or Bill Gates.

Sablan never forgets the time when he was a visitor at the residence of the Philippine Ambassador to Washington, D.C. where he was served chicken "adobo," a popular Filipino dish of either pork or chicken in soy sauce and ground pepper. Sablan is married to Andrea, who hails from the Philippines.

"I really like adobo," he said.

Sablan said he will also never forget the day President Barack Obama was sworn into office. He walked miles from his apartment to the inaugural place.

"I think it was the coldest day but it was electric... seeing people from all over the world cheering on the president of the United States was just electric. I'd probably not see another day like that in my life. Everyone was so courteous; it's amazing," he said.

Historic polls

He said nothing also beats the experience of getting elected to office to serve the CNMI people in Washington, D.C.

For the first time in 30 years since the Northern Marianas became a commonwealth of the United States in 1978, it held an election to vote for a non-voting congressional delegate. The historic polls were also held 22 years since the territory's qualified residents became U.S. citizens in November 1986.

"I like the work in Washington, D.C. It's very busy. There are challenges, and I'm not trying to jump ahead of everybody. I'm taking it a step at a time, and just trying to do as much as I can for the people I represent. There are good days and there are bad days," he said.

MORE THAN FIVE

"Why limit yourself to a list of five people?"



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Life in Motion

Bringing environmental awareness closer to students

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_egenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Between 300 and 400 students visited yesterday's 2009 Environmental Expo at the Kagman Community Center where government and private agencies featured samples of energy-efficient products and practices, and interactive demonstrations on environmental protection. The exhibit also promoted healthy lifestyles through proper nutrition, cultural preservation and appreciation, and fire safety.

Olivia Tebuteb, coordinator for the Division of Environmental Quality's 2009 Environmental Expo, said the expo primarily targeted schools in Kagman but they also received students from Garapan Elementary School and Saipan Southern High School in Koblerville.

"This is what the environmental expo is for—to reach out to students. Our goals have always been achieved. This year, we have more students participating compared to the previous years," Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fifteen-year-old Ji Hyun Lee, a ninth grader at Northern Marianas Academy, said the interactive display of energy-saving light bulbs was among the most exciting booths he visited.

"I also learned about protected areas and protected animals. For example, we should not be



Glenn Arriola, an environmental technician with the Division of Environmental Quality, gives students an overview of Saipan's water resources in yesterday's 2009 Environmental Expo at the Kagman Community Center.

playing with sea cucumbers, and we should not litter to protect the environment," he said.

Tony Mareham, conservation officer at the Division of Fish and Wildlife, gave the students a brief explanation about the protected marine areas in the CNMI, including the Managaha Island, Bird Island and Forbidden Island, and the activities that are prohibited in these areas.

Sunny Aldan, 15, also a ninth grader at NMA, said the

environment-friendly practices done by private companies like recycling are commendable. "I really liked the 'going green' displays, and the other activities that have already been done like the islandwide cleanup," she said.

Aldan, who is a Youth Congress senator, said environmental exhibits such as this one brings awareness to young people.

The environmental expo is

the second to be held by DEQ this year as part of the Environmental Awareness Month activities.

The first one was held on April 1 at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe, which drew the participation of 750 to 800 students, said Tebuteb.

"The Kagman event is a smaller scale environmental expo but still we saw hundreds of students. We also have fewer exhibitors here in Kagman than

when we did it at the public library," said DEQ's Olivia Tebuteb.

DEQ will hold another environmental expo on May 1 on Rota.

"I've learned that many people are helping the environment. I've also learned new information like the difference between a normal light bulb and an energy-efficient light bulb, said Gayoung Jeon, 16, also a ninth grader at NMA.

Glenn Arriola and Loy Atalig, both DEQ environmental technicians, gave the students an overview of Saipan's water resources—where they come from and how to protect them.

"A lot of the questions were about the number of water wells we have. Saipan currently has 512 wells, including those by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and private agencies," said Arriola.

Among the private and public agency exhibitors in Kagman yesterday were DEQ, Coastal Resources Management, Department of Lands and Natural Resources/Division of Fish and Wildlife, Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services, Department of Public Works' Division of Solid Waste, Department of Public Safety's Fire Division, Historic Preservation Office, Tan Holdings, No Ka Oi Termite & Pest Control (Saipan) Inc., Northern Marianas Protection and

Advocacy Systems Inc. and Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting.

James Eller, district conservationist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, made brief presentations about efficient farm practices, soil erosion prevention, and rainfall collection and conservation, among other things.

"But many of the students' questions were, 'What is NRCS?'" Eller said.

NRCS, one of the agencies under USDA, provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources and environment. The agency's primary mission when it was created in 1935 was to conserve soil on agricultural land. In 1994, its role expanded to also protect other natural resources such as soil, water, air, plants, and animals on private and tribal lands.

Besides the environmental expo, another major Environmental Awareness Month activity was the April 17 and 18 islandwide cleanup.

Joe Kaipat, DEQ coordinator for the islandwide cleanup, said the two-day cleanup hauled 27,070 lbs. of trash—from cigarette butts to plastic bottles, soda and beer cans, glass bottles, papers, plastic bags and other household and commercial waste.

"This is the biggest amount of trash collected in just two days," said Kaipat, adding that the partnership between DEQ and Beautify CNMI and its partners has contributed much to the success of the cleanup which brought together 4,140 volunteers.

Kaipat said today, San Antonio Elementary School will also clean up its campus.

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Funding eyed for Immigration Division

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislature is working on a bill that will allocate \$400,000 to the local Division of Immigration in light of the delay to the start of the federalization law.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget only funded the Immigration Division through May 31, the day before Public Law 110-299 was scheduled to go into effect.

With the Department of Homeland Security pushing back the start date to Nov. 28, additional money must be allocated to fund personnel and operations for the agency.

The House Ways and Means and the Senate Fiscal Affairs committees are jointly drafting

a bill to allocate the money, said Esther Fleming of the Office of Management and Budget.

The six-month delay was announced just before the administration submitted its Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal to the Legislature on April 1, so it includes funding for the Division from Oct. 1—the start of the new fiscal year—to Nov. 28—when the federal government will take over local immigration.

“Our main problem is funding that they [the Legislature] took out from June 1 to Sept. 30,” Fleming said.

The cash-strapped Commonwealth government will be able to generate revenue for six more months in certain areas.

Six more months of the Russia and China markets could mean more than \$100 million coming into the CNMI, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. Nonresident worker fees will also be coming in for six more months, an additional \$2.5 million to \$3 million in revenue.

The Department of Labor, which will also be run by the federal government, was fully funded through the end of the fiscal year. The CNMI has sued the federal government in an effort to stop the takeover of local immigration and filed a preliminary injunction to halt the labor provisions in PL 110-229.

Fleming said she had talked with Immigration employees

about their job status.

“I did meet with all the employees on different occasions,” she said. “I did assure them they are still be on board. We will find one way or another. They were very worried.”

Melvin Grey, director of the local Division of Immigration, earlier said staff morale was low at the agency, as employees were unsure about their future.

When the postponement of the start date was announced earlier this month, Grey said it was still business as usual at the Immigration Division.

Sixty-one employees will be able to keep their jobs for another six months, but “we’ll have to face it again in six months,” he said.

Over 300 Pacific local govts on island in May

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 300 delegates from the Pacific region are expected to be on island next month for the second annual Pacific Mayors’ Conference.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Association of Pacific Island Local Governments, APILG, will host the mayors’ conference on Saipan in May.

Delegates from Guam, Rota, Tinian, Honolulu, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Philippines are expected to descend on the island for

the conference, scheduled for May 14 to 17 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

According to Antonia M. Tudela, co-chairwoman of the APILG conference, many mayors will attend due to their membership with the group.

Tudela said others are interested in the association’s plan to provide information at the conference about the region’s military buildup, the potential need for raw materials, H-2 visa laborers and supplies from the Philippines.

A report on the constant traffic for medical care at hos-

pitals in the Philippines is also among the much-awaited presentations at the event.

Last year’s inaugural conference was held in Guam, which saw more than 450 delegates and guests.

“As an association of municipalities, we want to explore ways and means of maximizing our muscle through collaborative ventures among mayors from the Philippines, Guam, and the Northern Marianas and Micronesia,” Tudela said in her invitation to local lawmakers to grace the event.

Tudela said the conference

aims to achieve the following objectives: celebrate common elements in culture and customs; establish a network in the areas of education, health care, agriculture and commerce; to further business and investment endeavors; assist in the availability of affordable health care; to improve and re-establish communication among families and friends; and provide for assistance in times of disasters.

Tudela said the association also aims to nurture “sister-city relationships” among the participating jurisdictions in Micronesia, Guam and the Philippines.

Marpi area closed Friday for detonation

The Marpi area will be closed off on Friday, April 24, to allow bomb experts to detonate vintage World War II ordnance.

The detonation operation, scheduled from 12pm to 3pm, will be jointly conducted by the Department of Public Safety, the Emergency Management Office, and the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment Marianas.

The general location of this activity will be at the Laderan Lagoon Cliff Line, a mile north of the Marpi landfill. The grid coordinates is 15 degrees, 16.11 minutes 0.0865 seconds North and 145 degrees, 49 minutes 0.3313 seconds East and 5,000 feet above sea level.

DPS is warning the public, especially tour and dive operators, farmers, joggers and bikers, to stay away from the site during the times indicated.

The only area that will not be closed off will be Suicide Cliff, which will be the main viewing point for the detonation. Public access to Suicide Cliff is allowed only through the road leading up to the Far East Broadcasting antenna for viewing purposes. DPS will set security posts to enforce and control traffic movement for safety purposes. (DPS)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

April 22, 1999

US lawmaker lauds NMI for ability to sustain economy

US Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Ca) has defended the Northern Marianas against plans that would strip the islands of duty free privileges, saying such move would throw back the CNMI to dependence on federal subsidies like other US territories. “I strongly disagree that we should single out the CNMI from our other U.S. territories and deny them the duty-free status for trying to find a formula that would enable them to be less dependent on U.S. taxpayers grant,” Rohrabacher said in his Dear Colleague letter to members of Congress. His comment stems from statements by Rep. Bob Franks (R-NJ) concerning the use of “Made in USA” label in finished garments from the islands, a business practice the latter described as a threat to the apparel industry in the mainland.

Gov’t to cooperate in hosting illegals

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said his government is willing to accommodate requests by the United States to divert to the Northern Marianas vessels carrying illegal Chinese immigrants that will be captured by authorities in the future. “I have already made a commitment when I discussed this with the justice department. I have committed that we are ready to cooperate,” the governor said in an interview. But Tenorio underscored that future diversions should be for “humanitarian reasons”, easing fears among local residents that the islands would become a permanent holding area for illegals who will be apprehended in the high seas until their deportation.

April 22, 2002

More flights for China Air eyed

The CNMI government, together with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Marianas Visitors Authority, will collectively seek the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant the remaining 100 flight permits for the China Southern Air. This, as Gov. Juan N. Babauta vowed to extend all necessary assistance to the MVA to cultivate the China market, which is seen to alleviate the condition of the CNMI tourism industry. Babauta and other government officials welcomed Saturday the arrival of 198 delegates led by Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, during the maiden flight of the China Southern Air Boeing 757.

‘Japan-US agreement will help us’

To obtain a first-hand look at how the decline in Japanese tourists have affected the local economy, a Department of Commerce delegation swung by the Northern Marianas over the weekend in a visit that they described as “action packed.” This comes on the heels of a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Japan in a bid to bring tourism activity between the two countries back up to pre-9-11 levels. According to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, that MOU will result in a bilateral agreement on trade and tourism come June or July, to which the Commonwealth has been expressly invited to attend and witness.

April 22, 2003

Woman patient under DPH observation

Department of Public Health officials yesterday admitted that a woman patient has been under close monitoring and her case has been referred to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for immediate evaluation amid the global threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, but they stressed that they do not suspect it to be SARS. DPH officials headed by Secretary James U. Hofschneider called a press conference yesterday to vehemently deny that it has quarantined a person suspected to have been afflicted with SARS. At the same time, Hofschneider said the CDC, after consultation, ruled out it was a SARS case.

CPA lauds airlines’ efforts vs SARS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority commended airline companies servicing Saipan for implementing tighter monitoring of their passengers amid the outbreak of the deadly disease Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Carlos H. Salas, CPA executive director, noted that airlines that bring passengers in and out of the Commonwealth have been in close coordination with local aviation and health agencies to prevent the entry of any SARS carrier into the CNMI. Salas added that efforts to maintain a SARS-free Northern Marianas have become a concerted effort of local and federal agencies, and tourism industry players including airline companies that fly in and out of the Saipan International Airport.



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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of PTI Services, Inc., Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant’s proposed expansion and operation of its call center, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant’s application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin’s Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Drunk man allegedly tries to kiss woman, chokes man, assaults cop

A drunken man allegedly tried to kiss a woman, choked a man, and even assaulted a police officer outside a bar in western Garapan last weekend.

Isidoro Ilel was taken to the Superior Court Monday afternoon for a bail hearing. He is facing charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and resisting arrest.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a \$5,000 cash bail for Ilel's temporary liberty. She set the preliminary hearing for April 30.

Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero said police on Saturday received a call at 2:40am about a disturbance outside the USSP Bar in western Garapan.

Leon Guerrero said when a responding police officer arrived, Ilel was seen shouting and arguing with some men at the bar's parking lot.

When a police officer tried to calm down Ilel, the defendant instead repeatedly told the officer to move away from his face.

The defendant then allegedly pushed the officer on the chest. The officer, who at that time was joined by other officers, tried to arrest Ilel but he allegedly resisted. This prompted one officer to spray pepper mace on the defendant.

Ilel was then subdued, but he allegedly continued to struggle as he was taken to a police's car.

Police learned that the drunken Ilel had tried to kiss a woman. A man tried to stop him, but the suspect attacked and choked him.

Ilel was allegedly challenging everyone at the parking lot to a fight when the police arrived. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Quitugua to run for Senate seat

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three-term congressman Justo Quitugua announced yesterday his decision to seek a higher office in this year's general election.

"I have decided to run for a Senate seat to help a greater number of people on our islands," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Quitugua, a Democrat, has been a member of the House of Representatives since the 14th Legislature.

This time, he said he might

end up as an independent candidate if no Democratic Party official certifies his candidacy.

As a Precinct 4 lawmaker, Quitugua believes he effectively carried out his responsibilities to his constituents.

However, being a representative somehow limits a lawmaker's ability to help more people, he said, because the assistance is specific to the needs of the precinct constituents.

A senatorial post, he said, is also a good way to dig deeper into issues of general concern to the people.

"Sometimes it's very difficult to address concerns of other people because they have their own representatives in the lower house and we need to respect that. As a senator, I believe I can reach out to more people and help them the best I can," he said.

Quitugua's bills in the last six years were mostly related to education, youth, health care, and infrastructure developments.

If given the chance to serve in the Senate, he vows to maintain his focus on education and youth issues.

"I really believe that my heart is with our kids. We need to extend our full support and assistance to them because they're the CNMI's future," he said.

There are nine seats at the Senate chamber, of which three—one each from Saipan, Rota and Tinian—are up for grabs during the midterm election; the six other posts are filled during general elections.

Incumbent senators for Saipan and the Northern Islands include Senate President Pete Reyes, Sen. Maria Pangelinan, and Sen. Luis Crisostimo.

WCC yet to collect \$766,310 from employers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Workers Compensation Commission's total receivables as of March 31 reached \$766,310.16, according to the latest financial report prepared by comptroller David S. Demapan.

WCC is a government agency under the NMI Retirement Fund, along with the Group Health and Life Insurance.

About 98 percent or \$751,150.63 of WCC receivables are owed by employers.

WCC provides financial protection to both employers and employees for the catastrophic effects of work related injuries, illnesses or deaths. It is a social insurance plan that compensates employees for disabilities incurred from work-related injuries regardless of fault. It is also a no-

fault insurance program, solely paid for by the employer.

As of March 31, WCC's total assets were at \$1.90 million, which exceeds the liabilities of \$811,542.81.

Net assets represent resources available for future payments, which means after all liabilities are paid off, WCC has at the end of March 30 some \$1.25 million to pay for workers' compensation benefits.

Demapan said to date, WCC has collected \$105,201 in allotment from the Department of Finance, as well as from the special disability revenue. In March alone, WCC received \$25,348 in allotment from Finance.

WCC has also paid \$4,809 in disability claims as of March 31. "These claims relate to medical bills that were incurred by disabled persons," said Demapan.

12 groups confirmed for NMC Career Fair

Twelve companies have been confirmed to participate in the Northern Marianas College's Career Center's Career Fair on Thursday, April 23.

The participating organizations include the Marianas Resort & Spa, Palms Resort Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Joeten Enterprises, Tan Holdings, the Office of Personnel Management, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, the Department of Public Safety, Marianas Health Services, and Pacific Trading Co. NMC's Human Resources Department will also be there.

The Career Fair will showcase various employment opportunities for high school and college students as part of the college's celebration of Career Discovery Month. The Fair will be held between Building W and V at NMC and will run from 10am to 12pm. All high school and college students are invited.

For more information about the Career Fair, contact Heather Santos or Lulu Wang at 234-5498 ext. 1348/1, e-mail heathers@nmcnet.edu or luluw@

nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. **(NMC)**



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Zachary Matthew White Camacho, who is celebrating his first birthday today! You truly are a bundle of joy, smiles and sunshine and most especially a wonderful blessing. May God continue to bless you always. We love you very much! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, VJ, Oca, all the family, ninos, and ninas.

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Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Glocalizing the Earth

Since the sighting of the “blue” sphere swirling through space and rising in our imagination from the unfamiliar moon-scape in December of 1968, when humans for the first time saw the hidden face of the other side of the moon, and the magnificent view of the earthrise, the journey of human consciousness expanded outward at a geometric rate, and intensified inward at depths heretofore unknown and unexplored.

We have come to a great turning and saw ourselves homeward bound in a way that allows us to see the familiar with new eyes, turning the previously drab common into the fabulously engaging commons for a new people. We speak of our new village, the planet Earth. That the Obama administration is taking global warming seriously rather than denying its reality witnesses to that turn.

Globalization has been the trend in economics. Ownership of natural resources has shifted in the direction of stewardship, the responsible utilization of resources—natural, human and technological—for the common good. Production can no longer mean the exploitation of labor for the benefit of management. Though workers have been captive to the ethos of consumerism, the search for significant engagement has become the workers’ cry in designing enterprise and engaging endeavors.

The localization of political movements has meant broadening the base of the decision making process, whether it be in the urban ward, or the factory floor, in professional unions and the market surveys of the distribution system.

As economics became global and politics became local, the glocalization of the culture of the glocal village has taken radical and creative turns. The local marine monument of the Marianas is at once a local and a global concern. The global decisions of WTO grievously affected the unprepared and recalcitrant local. The division between the local and the global has since been blurred, and the heart, mind, soul and spirit of every living individual has become the object of planetary definition and influence that is making glocal citizens of us all!

Might that we decide to Beautify CNMI! all year-round rather than being a one day push in April, and Environmental Awareness Month becomes a daily state of being! Wouldn't we want our schoolyards to sprout gardens again, and our water spouts designed to catch rain and conserve Mother Nature's gift of abundance to us and rarity to others; that our water runoffs are filtered through flower beds, our soil conserved in contoured terrain, and the lagoon becomes a protected habitat for a significant part of the food chain once more?

Glocalize the Earth! Beginning with our homes and communities into the vast expanse of the continents and its bioregions, we dare create a home where every creature in the created order can belong.



Quandary

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Walt's lesson for the lovelorn

Dear Walt,
There's a guy who came to my church last fall to instruct a musical workshop. I've never really met him, but he's constantly on my mind. He really impressed me with his singing, his demeanor, and his sense of humor. I know and I feel like he might be out of my league, but as stated earlier he is constantly on my mind. What should I do? I've prayed and asked the Lord to reveal to me why I keep thinking about him. I know the Lord, if He hasn't already, will answer me. Perhaps the answer is not what I want to hear, but I'm in a quandary right now and would love some printed answer or something I think is concrete. Thank you for listening! —In a Quandary

Dear Quandary,
Nothing ventured, nothing gained. It's better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all. Not knowing is the hardest part. There are a host of proverbs I could offer you as to why it's in your best interest to initiate some sort of interaction with this fellow. I know, however, that this can be quite a scary thing.

Now, the most telling part of your letter is the phrase “I know and I feel like he might be out of my league.” That little bit of self-deprecation is what's holding you back. Remember this: When it comes to your fears, it's never really about the other person. It's really *only* about you. No one else really exists but you. (“I live in a world filled with fears, foes and fancy. But there's no one else here but me.”)

Now, here's something else to think about. Your gut feeling of a connection with this person might *not* be what you think it is. Maybe he has a message for you that has nothing to do with love and romance. Perhaps he is the missing link to an experience that might put you on a different career path, get you a new job, find you that dream house. Don't think that just because you can't identify what you're feeling, that it's an attraction for which you risk rejection. Fear not! Go forth boldly in search of your good!

*When your interest and desires
are quite obvious to view
You fear a big rejection
is what lies in store for you*

*You know and feel inside
he might be way out of your league
But thoughts of possibilities
spark yearning and intrigue*

*You feel your chances slim
that he too might feel the same way
You want to get to know him more*

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



but don't know what to say

*Just follow with your heart, friend
but don't marry expectations
When wedded to an outcome
that's what leads to great frustration*

*What he offers might be friendship
what he offers might be bliss
You've got to strike it now
or this great chance you'll surely miss*

*And know above all else my friend
the odds are really with you
It's often true the thing you seek
is also seeking you too!*

Now then, to keep my editor convinced that this is still a business column, I'll make the obvious connection that “Quandary's” experience can be likened to the situation many people find themselves in with regard to chasing and living the life of their entrepreneurial dreams. The key to success is simply to take action—any action—in the direction of your desires. Use the outcome—whether good or bad—in your favor. Whatever results as a result of your efforts can be used as a lesson you can build upon, an experience you can capitalize on, and at the very least, an opportunity to say, “At least I tried, and I have at least one new thing I learned about myself as I press forward.”

■ ■ ■

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com/!

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com/!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Dealing with the CNMI Retirement Fund challenge

This week the CNMI Superior Court hears evidence to determine damages that will be awarded to the local pension system. The damages will be assessed against the CNMI government for nonpayment of employer contributions totaling \$209 million as of December 2008.

This unpaid employer contributions took many years to accrue.

The solvency of the Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan program has always been a top priority for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial since Day 1 of his administration.

Early on in the administration, it was determined that the problems adversely affecting the Fund were twofold:

Unaffordable growth of the actuarial accrued liability: From the year 2000 to 2005, the *liability* grew from \$809 million to a little over \$1.0 billion (yes, \$1.007 billion dollars). Imagine—a \$1.0 BILLION dollar *liability* and growing at an average rate of over \$30 million every year since 2000. In 2005—with the CNMI having an estimated population of 80,000 people—each and every one of us in the CNMI (man, woman, and child) essentially owed the Retirement Fund \$12,500 each, and shared in additional costs of \$30 million every year if nothing was done about the increasing liability.

Unpaid employer contributions: In January 2006, unpaid employer contributions already exceeded \$100 million.

A simple explanation to explain the difference in the debts above is that the *liability* is your long-term debt and the unpaid employer contributions is your short-term debt, similar to your loan installment payments.

The employer contributions are made to “pay down” the *liability*.

Of the two above, capping or slowing the growth of the *liability* was the greater urgency, if not emergency.

In June 2006, Public Law 15-13 passed and closed the CNMI government's employee retirement defined benefit plan program to new members. A defined contribution plan will take its place as the new CNMI government's employee retirement program. In June 2007, PL 15-70 passed and reformed the defined benefit plan. The Retirement Fund's Actuarial Report of 2007 (presented January 2009) advises that the *liability* has decreased from \$1.00 billion in 2005 to \$879 million in 2007—a decrease of \$121 million. The *liability* has been capped and a decreasing trend has been established, thanks to the new DC plan and the Defined Benefit Plan Reform Act of 2007.

As to the remittance of the unpaid employer contributions, there has been every intention to pay for what has been unpaid for years. However, in January 2006, the CNMI government was not only

faced with the challenge of paying the Retirement Fund; it also had the responsibility of dealing with a \$30 million decrease in resources at a time when the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. could not pay for its own fuel when fuel costs soared to record highs. The public health, welfare, and safety of all CNMI residents were threatened. The choice was made to do what was good for all 80,000 CNMI residents. To date, with decreasing resources, the choice for the good of all CNMI residents continues to be made.

“When will the CNMI government pay the employer contribution?” is a question that is often asked. The CNMI government is already paying a part of the actuarially determined employer contribution. The CNMI government is currently paying 11 percent of every dollar paid to employees who continue to be members of the defined benefit plan. The currently required employer contribution by the Retirement Fund is 39 percent of every dollar paid to employees who continue to be members of the defined benefit plan.

A summary of actual dollars due for employer contributions as recommended by the Retirement Fund's Actuarial Report for years 2005 to 2008 is as follows:

■ 2005	Employer contributions due	\$61 million
■ 2006	Employer contributions due	\$51 million
■ 2007	Employer contributions due	\$35 million
■ 2008 (Estimated)	Employer contributions due	\$50 million

Since FY 2006 and with resources averaging about \$160 million annually, paying the actuarially recommended employer contributions could be addressed, but at what cost to all CNMI residents? Severe cutbacks in education, health services, and public safety would be the inevitable result.

The Fund's defined benefit plan's solvency cannot be addressed in the short-term with the CNMI government's limited budgetary resources and not without grave risk to public health, welfare and safety.

We must forge a long-term solution:

1) **Continue reform:** Continue the reform that was started since 2006, to ensure the long-term preservation of core benefits to current retirees and those active employees who continue to be active members of the defined benefit plan.

2) **Pension obligation bond:** Get legislation passed to allow a referendum to change the CNMI Constitution so that the CNMI government can float a pension obligation bond. Proposed legislation continues to be stalled in the Legislature.

3) **Increase employer contributions gradually:** Increase employer contributions with budgetary resources permitting and without risk to the CNMI public's health, welfare, and safety. The CNMI public's

By ANTONIO S. MUNA

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Antonio S. Muna is executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's former Special Assistant for the Office of Management and Budget.



health, welfare, and safety need to be everyone's overriding concern.

4) **Defer benefits on a graduated scale:** It is unfair that there are CNMI government employees who cannot receive well deserved benefits due to unpaid employer contributions. When a person retires is determined by qualified years of service. Whether he or she receives benefits should be determined by whether they have paid their full amount of employee contributions. The Retirement Fund should consider reducing benefits in a more equitable manner. The current policy in place is 100 percent of benefits to all current retirees and zero benefits to all those for whom employer contributions have not been made. Consider the following (this is by no means a final product) for all current retirees receiving benefits, current retirees not receiving benefits due to unpaid employer contributions, and for future retirees:

■ First \$10,000 in benefits	100 percent
■ 2 nd \$10,000 in benefits	80 percent
■ 3 rd \$10,000 in benefits	70 percent
■ 4 th \$10,000 in benefits	65 percent

...and so forth. Decrease in benefits will be deferred and paid for sometime in the future. This proposal will allow everyone to receive benefits, extend the life of current Retirement assets to meet obligations, and allow time for CNMI government to stabilize financial resources and recover. A deferral of benefits does not mean that those benefits are lost but rather payment of those benefits are postponed.

It is hopeful that the court, in its decision, will have a long term vision of restoring solvency to the Retirement Fund. A decision that will yield short-term results will doom the defined benefit plan's solvency. The court must recognize that only through a financially stable CNMI government can the solvency of the Fund be restored. A decision pushing the CNMI government into insolvency or putting at risk the Public's health, welfare, and safety would only lead to the Fund's own quick demise.

Letter to the Editor

Rebuttal to attack on Fund trustees: Jumping to erroneous conclusions

Conclusion

The political season being what it is, I do feel that the Fund's board of trustees have been done an injustice as a result of comments which appeared in a recent Letter to the Editor published in this paper (Friday, April 17), titled: “*The insolvency of the NMI Retirement Fund.*”

The comments which follow are offered as a clarification and an independent assessment of several issues that appeared in the above letter as considered from the point of view of an economist and one who has not been asked to reply on behalf of, or in defense of, the Fund's trustees.

Being a member I am interested in the long-term financial viability of the Fund and submit my opinion of the stewardship of Fund's operation in contrast to that of the writer of the above letter. In the vein of Nehru's observation, “it is right that we should encourage honest criticism and have as much public discussion of our problems as possible.”

The various published accusations leveled at the Fund's trustees and my personal response to each follows—all of which are independent of Fund encouragement, endorsement or sanction. I alone bear the responsibility for the accuracy my comments and opinions.

Accusation or Question: “*Why wasn't this step undertaken (i.e., liquidate the Fund's investment portfolio) in the interest of protecting retirees and members? Was it too difficult an undertaking, therefore trustees had to engage in the baseless and useless blame game to cover its incompetence? Why can't trustees admit that they are equally a part of the problem in the Fund's financial debacle? You seem to be running out of excuses in your bag of tricks, right?*”

Response: Wrong. The record is filled with Fund attempts to protect the assets and property rights of the Fund and its members, the most recent action being the filing of a lawsuit against the government.

If the Fund's trustees, past and present, were so inept, why didn't the central government bring suit against the board rather than vice versa—of which the members in the final analysis were appointed by the various government administrations?

The Fund listed 10 causes of actions against the government. These are as follows:

Breach of the December 2001 contract, which commits the central government to pay \$500,000 biweekly to the Fund;

■ Breach of contractual agreement between the CNMI government and its employees who are members of the Fund and with its annuities;

■ Enactment of Public Law 15-15, suspending the employer contribution up to the end of Fiscal Year 2007, which is “unconstitutional because it diminishes or impairs the accrued benefits of the Fund”;

■ Violation of the contract clause of the CNMI Constitution, which prohibits the enactment of laws that impair the obligations of contract;

Violation of 1 CMC Section 8362 by failing to remit the statutorily required employer contribution to the Fund amounting to \$91.5 million as of date of filing (Aug. 1, 2006);

■ Violation of 1 CMC 2553 for failure to remit statutorily required employer contributions;

■ Violation of P.L. 8-31, which requires the government since Fiscal Year 1994 to allot or pay the Fund 30 percent of the container excise tax and 20 percent of the hotel occupancy tax in part to fund the members' group health and life insurance program, the cost of living allowance, and for the sound actuarial support of the retirement system, now totaling \$24 million;

■ Violation of P.L. 8-30, which requires the government to remit the money intended for the early retirement bonus of qualified members, amounting to \$3.5 million;

■ Failure to remit payment for the special benefits for past governors and lieutenant governors as embodied in P.L. 8-31, amounting to \$445,603;

■ The need for issuance of a writ of mandamus “to compel the Department of Finance and DOF director to perform their ministerial duties or obligations of remitting payments to the Fund.”

The Fund has made numerous demands for payment to the governor, the DOF, and the director, to no avail,” according to the lawsuit.

Accusation or Question: “*Trustees wanted the administration to cough up what's owed in employer's contribution. But isn't it true that forcing the issue simply means including taxes paid into the local*

coffers by the private sector and their employees? Why should they be penalized when they have nothing to do with the Fund nor are they slated to benefit by paying for someone else's incompetence? Why would you kill Jose so that Juan can live? Please, you have bankrupted the system; let's veer off private sector taxpayer lawsuits.”

Response: Again, an attempt by the central government to weasel out of its own contract with its own current and former (now retired) employees. From the beginning it has been the government's promised retirement plan for its employees. It was the government that devised the retirement plan, not the employees.

For many retirees the government's employer contribution was considered as tantamount to being deferred compensation for service rendered prior to retirement at income levels below what might have been paid within other sectors of the economy either on-island or elsewhere.

Accusation or Statement: “*It would also be prudent for the Fund to demonstrate to retirees and members what has it done in the last four years to cut operations expenses of the Fund. Let's see your annual budget, including salaries for personnel, payments for vendors and who are these vendors, among other things. We deserve to know!*”

Response: This is true.

Accusation or Statement: “*Finally, if at the end of another imperfect day you can't resolve issues I have raised herein above, perhaps it's best you do it Japanese style: Resign! We deserve nothing less than reasoned and competent disposition of the issues at hand. Did someone boasts he's an expert on solutions? Step up to the plate, sir. I challenge you to resolve this issue with finality!*”






Response: For those who may be disappointed with the actions of the Fund's board of trustees, don't forget all trustees have been appointed by a governor. As far as I can tell they are doing their best to maintain and adhere to their fiduciary responsibilities even if such action runs counter to the wishes of any temporary occupant of the governor's office. The trustees are well aware that they can be held personally as well as collectively liable for any proven abuse or

See **REBUTTAL** on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

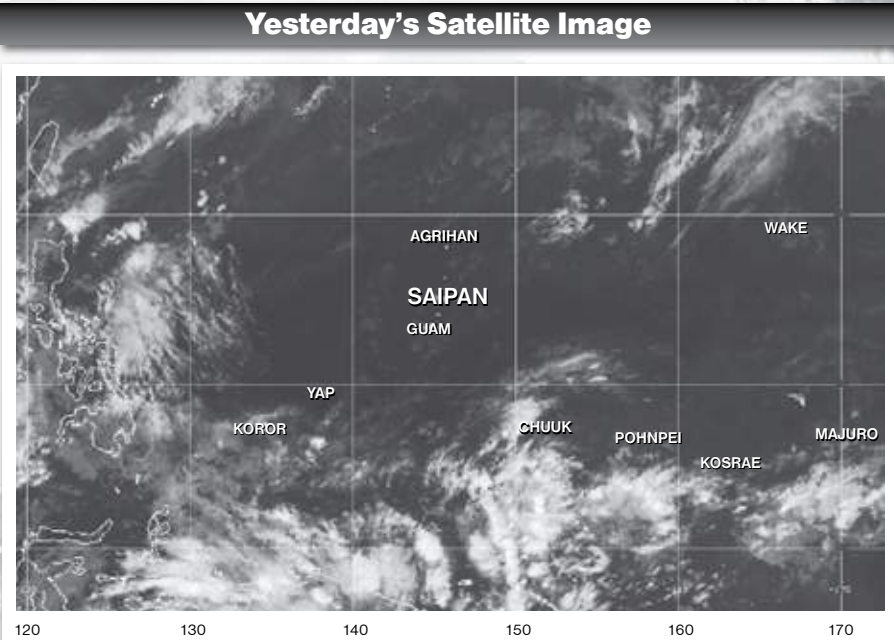
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Palau	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Majuro	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 49
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 50
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 75
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 68
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 57
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 71
New York	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 45
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 51
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 48
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 43
Rome	Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 48
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 51
Seoul	Dreary	▲ 52 ▼ 39
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 57
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 41

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
5:36 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:07 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
6:01 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front enters the discussion area just west of Minamitori Shima at 25N150E and extends westward to a low pressure centered over Iwo To Island then turns northward to beyond 25N. Scattered showers are found along and north of the front to beyond 25N including Iwo To island. A monsoon trough stretches southeastward from Mindanao to 7N130E then through a weak circulation centered south of Yap at 4N140E to end at EQ148E. Converging winds along and south of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Koror but south of Yap or south of a line from 7N130E to 9N135E to EQ147E. A low-level trough runs northward from 1N148E to 9N150E aided by favorable winds aloft. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along the trough axis south of Chuuk between the equator and 6N from 145E to 154E. Scattered showers are seen west and north of Chuuk within 55 miles of a line from 7N149E to 10N151E to 12N155E. Trade-wind convergence is taking advantage of moist upper-level flow to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Pohnpei but over Tarawa and Butaritari Atolls or south of a line from 3N154E to 8N180. Kosrae and Majuro are located just north of these showers.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:59 AM	6:33 PM	Today	3:32 AM	3:54 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM	Thursday	4:10 AM	4:46 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM	Friday	4:50 AM	5:41 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM	Saturday	5:34 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM	Sunday	5:34 AM	6:40 PM

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

- REQUIREMENTS**
- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita			Narita-Guam		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
Guam-Osaka			Osaka-Guam		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya			Nagoya-Guam		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau			Palau-Guam		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am	5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am	5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila			Manila-Palau		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			Manila-Nagoya		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am	11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			Hongkong-Incheon		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila			Manila-Narita		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

God in government

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The following are excerpted from the God in Government blog on washingtonpost.com.

A little-noticed mention of abortion opponents in a leaked domestic intelligence report has generated indignation among conservative Christian groups. The Department of Homeland Security report, which analyzes domestic and international threats to the nation’s borders and infrastructure, describes “right-wing extremism” as possibly including “groups and individuals that are dedicated to a single issue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration.”

Abortion opponents jumped on that description. “This is an outrageous characterization that raises serious questions about the leadership and direction of the agency charged with protecting Americans in the ongoing battle against terrorism,” Jay Seculow, president and chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, told the conservative Web site LifeNews.com. He said the ACLJ is preparing a legal analysis and launching a nationwide campaign to demand that the DHS remove the reference from its warning. The Thomas More Law Center has told Homeland Security that it wants “to know the basis for their recent intelligence assessment targeting as ‘right-wing extremists’ those who oppose abortion, gun control, lax immigration laws, and a myriad of other policies supported by President Obama’s administration.”

Letter to the Editor

Promises kept

This week, most likely on Earth Day, barring any major breaking news stories taking over the air waves, NBC Nightly News will broadcast, in prime time, a national story about the Marianas Trench Marine Monument. Likely the story will be less rah-rah environment and more, how did we get here, what now and what are the challenges ahead? Regardless, the story illustrates an important promise kept. While much work remains to be done to realize all the benefits touted and to effectively harness the full potential of the declaration, everyone who has had a hand in making the monument a reality should hold their heads high this coming Earth Day. Be proud; together we have taken a most difficult yet monumental first step on the way to preserving one of the most special and least understood places on our planet. To that end our children will thank us, for perhaps the most important of promises has been kept, the promise to do what we can now to save our oceans and the very existence of hundreds, if not thousands, of species, potentially even our own. By doing so we have also brought a tide of change to the shores of the CNMI. In addition to this week’s NBC story, late last week Angelo Vilagomez and Ike Cabrera traveled to San Francisco where, on behalf of the Friends of the Monument, they accepted the 2009 EPA award acknowledging commitment and significant contributions to the environment. Although getting a monument declared is not necessary to receive this award, as demonstrated by Beautify CNMI winning it in 2008, the fact remains, by receiving this honor twice in suc-

What Did Dobson Say?
Did James Dobson concede defeat in the culture wars this week? The retiring chairman of the conservative Christian group Focus on the Family said during a speech: “We are right now in the midst of the most discouraging period of that long conflict. Humanly speaking, we can say we have lost all these battles.” Liberal bloggers have crowed about the speech. But Focus on the Family spokesman Gary Schneeberger said the left-wing blogosphere “spun this story a bit like (Dobson) was Gen. Lee surrendering at Appomattox. In fact, all he was doing was acknowledging that, yes, the conservative movement has taken some hits lately. We’ve lost on some issues. But losing a few battles is not synonymous with losing a war. It’s certainly not.”

Obama and Evangelicals
President Obama’s frequent allusions to his Christian faith don’t seem to be making a difference in his favorability ratings—at least among some Christians. One in five white evangelicals still think he’s a Muslim. And his job approval rating among white evangelicals has sunk from 47 percent in February to 37 percent this month—a bigger drop than among the general electorate, according to the most recent poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. But Mark Silk, director of the Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life, looks at the bright side on his blog, Spiritual Politics. He points out that Obama’s 37 percent job approval rating among white evangelicals is 13 percentage points higher than those who voted for him last November.


Sikhs Angry Over Army Restrictions
Two Sikhs who serve in the Army filed legal complaints this week with the Department of Defense seeking the right to continue wearing the uncut hair and turbans required by their faith. Capt. Kamaljeet Kalsi, a doctor specializing in emergency medicine, and Second Lt. Tejdeep Rattan, who is in his last year of dental school, have been finishing their medical educations and are scheduled to begin active duty July 1—but both refuse to take off their turbans or cut their hair. Both men say they were told when they were recruited that they could keep their hair and head coverings that bind them, publicly, to their religious tradition. Now that both men are about to start active duty, their superiors have told them that they must comply with military rules on appearance. But the men and their advocates say the rules aren’t being applied fairly to everyone. In 1981, the Army put in place rules banning unshorn hair and conspicuous religious items. Then in 1986, the Supreme Court agreed that the Army could ban a Jewish psychiatrist from wearing a yarmulke. The next year, Congress passed legislation that was signed into law saying there could be room for “neat and conservative” religious items if they don’t conflict with someone’s military duties.

Washington Post religion reporters Jacqueline L. Salmon and Michelle Boorstein blog regularly on religion, politics and policy at washingtonpost.com/onfaith.

sive years we now have something very important in our corner—momentum. Even the critics must recognize that this round of press alone delivers not only on the promise to bring positive worldwide attention to the CNMI but it can also be the catalyst we need to re-brand the CNMI. That is, if we don’t screw it up. During NBC’s visit a few weeks ago, I remember hearing someone saying this will be the first time since the 1990s one of the Big 3 networks has come to the CNMI to do a national TV news story. Back then ABC did their expose on our booming, less than glamorous garment industry and the accompanying issues with human trafficking and prolific prostitution. Of course, a story like that followed by years of corruption (aka Tom Delay and Jack Abramoff) can make for a difficult image to shake long after the factories are gone and the federal government assumes control of local immigration. Now I know an image can’t be changed overnight nor will it be changed by one three-minute spot on the national news. However, if we play our cards right, manage the monument with due diligence and ride this wave of media coverage over the coming weeks, months and years we can do it, one story at a time. Case in point. Following the day of diving with NBC, including four very different dive sites in the Grotto, Naftan Point, Ice Cream and Ship Wreck, I asked reporter Ian Williams how his day had compared to other dive days he’d experienced around the world. He enthusiastically and whole-heartedly responded with “as good as or better than any I’ve ever had.” As our conversation continued we discovered his points of reference include some very high profile places in Asia including many in Indonesia, a country gener-

ally well known for some pretty decent diving. This, without even setting foot anywhere near the actual area designated as a monument. Think of the possibilities for education and tourism when yet another of the promises is met. That of a world-class visitors center on Saipan complete with a walk-through replica of the Trench and live video feeds from the many research expeditions and their crews of local students and scientists. The job has really just begun; let’s work together to keep the promises and reap the benefits for the sake of our children. **Mike Tripp**
Garapan, Saipan
REBUTTAL
From Page 11
neglect of their fiduciary duty. The Fund trustees have stepped up to the plate and await the judicial process “to resolve this issue with finality!” Have a nice day. **William H. ‘Bill’ Stewart**
via e-mail
P.S. Since 2004, I have published more than 50 “op-ed” pieces concerning the deteriorating condition of the member’s retirement security. These articles may be reviewed in the archives of this paper by entering my name in the archives search bar. For economic credentials Google: saipanstewart.com (open on “Home”).

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



MARIANA
EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	020E	4/11 Sat	4/9 Thu	4/9 Thu	4/7 Tue	4/4 Sat	4/17 Fri	4/13 Mon	4/12 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/5 Sun	4/13 Mon	4/17 Fri	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	019E	4/18 Sat	4/16 Thu	4/16 Thu	4/14 Tue	4/11 Sat	4/24 Fri	4/20 Mon	4/19 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/20 Mon	4/24 Fri	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	4/25 Sat	4/23 Thu	4/23 Thu	4/21 Tue	4/18 Sat	5/1 Fri	4/27 Mon	4/26 Sun	4/19 Sun	4/19 Sun	4/27 Mon	5/1 Fri	5/3 Sun	5/5 Tue
MELL SENOKO	021E	5/2 Sat	4/30 Thu	4/30 Thu	4/28 Tue	4/25 Sat	5/8 Fri	5/4 Mon	5/3 Sun	4/26 Sun	4/26 Sun	5/4 Mon	5/8 Fri	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	020E	5/9 Sat	5/7 Thu	5/7 Thu	5/5 Tue	5/2 Sat	5/15 Fri	5/11 Mon	5/10 Sun	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	5/11 Mon	5/15 Fri	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	033E	5/16 Sat	5/14 Thu	5/14 Thu	5/12 Tue	5/9 Sat	5/22 Fri	5/18 Mon	5/17 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/18 Mon	5/22 Fri	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	020E	4/25 Sat	4/26 Sun	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue	4/30 Thu	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/5 Tue	5/8 Fri	5/9 Sat	5/14 Thu	6/2 Tue	5/31 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	019E	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Thu	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/15 Fri	5/16 Sat	5/21 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/7 Sun
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/14 Thu	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue	5/22 Fri	5/23 Sat	5/28 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/14 Sun
MELL SENOKO	021E	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/17 Sun	SKIP	5/21 Thu	5/23 Sat	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue	5/29 Fri	5/30 Sat	6/4 Thu	6/23 Tue	6/21 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	020E	5/23 Sat	5/24 Sun	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue	5/28 Thu	5/30 Sat	5/31 Sun	6/2 Tue	6/5 Fri	6/6 Sat	6/11 Thu	6/30 Tue	6/28 Sun
MELL SINGAPORE	033E	5/30 Sat	5/31 Sun	5/31 Sun	SKIP	6/4 Thu	6/6 Sat	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue	6/12 Fri	6/13 Sat	6/18 Thu	7/7 Tue	7/5 Sun

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Business

Bank bailout may hurt taxpayers, be open to fraud

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taxpayers are increasingly exposed to losses and the government is more vulnerable to fraud under Obama administration initiatives that have created a federal bank bailout program of “unprecedented scope,” a government report finds.

In a 250-page quarterly report to Congress, the rescue program’s special inspector general concludes that a private-public partnership designed to rid financial institutions of their “toxic assets” is tilted in favor of private investors and creates “potential unfairness to the taxpayer.”

The report, which examines the six-month old, \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program, is scheduled for release Tuesday.

Using blunt language, Inspector General Neil Barofsky offers a series of recommendations to protect the public and takes the Treasury to task for not imple-

menting previous advice. The report also commends Treasury and the Federal Reserve for creating some safeguards.

The report’s warnings about the public-private plan’s potential for losses echoes alarms raised by some lawmakers and economists, but Barofsky has significant credibility in Congress and his views are likely to carry ample weight.

Overall, the report says the public-private partnership—using Treasury, Federal Reserve and private investor money—could total \$2 trillion. The financial markets responded positively to the program when the Obama administration announced it last month, but the administration is still putting final touches on its implementation.

“The sheer size of the program ... is so large and the leverage being provided to the private equity participants so beneficial,

that the taxpayer risk is many times that of the private parties, thereby potentially skewing the economic incentives,” the report states.

In particular, the report cited the private-public partnership that would purchase troubled real estate-related securities from financial institutions. Under plans unveiled by Treasury, for every \$1 of private investment, Treasury would invest \$1 and could provide another dollar in a nonrecourse loan. That money could then leverage a loan from another government fund backed mostly by the Federal Reserve, a step that Barofsky says would dilute the incentive for private fund managers to exercise due diligence.

Barofsky recommends that Treasury not allow the use of Fed loans “unless significant mitigating measures are included to address these dangers.”

Fed’s No. 2 Kohn sees gradual recovery in 2009

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal Reserve Vice Chairman Donald L. Kohn said steadier consumer spending and home sales, together with favorable earnings results from some banks, may indicate that the U.S. economy is poised to stage a gradual recovery later this year.

The Fed’s No. 2 official, delivering the annual Hutchinson lecture at the University of Delaware Monday evening, noted that consumer spending continues to suffer the effects of the poor job market and the sizable losses of equity and housing wealth over the past two years.

But he said consumption appears to have steadied in comparison to the sharp drops seen in the second half of 2008, and declines in sales and construction of single-family homes have abated - possibly because

of low mortgage interest rates.

Kohn also noted that the plunge in energy prices has helped bolster real incomes and gives consumers much-needed cash to spend elsewhere.

“These developments may be an early indication that conditions are falling into place for real GDP to decline at a slower rate in the second quarter and to stabilize later this year,” Kohn said.

Kohn noted that low confidence about future economic and job prospects is still crimping people’s willingness to spend. Tight credit conditions—especially for commercial construction—also could hinder a recovery, as could weak exports in the face of global economic issues.

“My best guess is that we are in for a relatively gradual recovery,” he added.

Kohn pointed to the Federal

Reserve’s role in helping to counter the financial crisis and its economic fallout. The central bank has slashed a key interest rate essentially to zero and launched a series of programs designed to get credit to flow more freely again to American consumers and businesses and thus help revive the U.S. economy.

With all of the Fed’s programs to provide loans or buy debt, its balance sheet has ballooned. The Fed recently injected \$1.2 trillion into the economy in an attempt to lower interest rates for mortgages and other loans, and may expand a program to spur consumer lending.

Some critics are concerned that the Fed’s policies could spur inflation if key interest rates aren’t quickly increased and special lending programs aren’t dismantled once the economy shows strong signs of turning around.

ing \$13.9 billion for services provider Electronic Data Systems last year.

PepsiCo offers to buy 2 bottlers for \$6 billion

NEW YORK (AP)—PepsiCo Inc.’s \$6 billion bid to buy its two largest bottlers should make the owner of the Gatorade, Naked juices and Aquafina brands more nimble in a landscape where soft drinks have declined in popularity in favor of healthier options like water and juices. The deals for Pepsi Bottling Group and PepsiAmericas would let PepsiCo control about 80 percent of its total North American beverage volume—something the company and analysts said would streamline the process of getting newer or smaller products to stores. Consumers could see products such as Izze sparkling juice and Naked fruit juices at more places, Chief Financial Officer Richard Goodman said, since the company would be able to negotiate with retailers directly rather than persuading the bottlers that now control most distribution to include smaller products in their network. “There is a need to be more nimble given the increasing role of (non-carbonated beverages), retailer consolidation and the changing competitive landscape,” PepsiCo Chairman and Chief Executive Indra Nooyi said.

Nation



This frame grab from a video surveillance camera, released by the Warwick, R.I., Police Dept., shows a person of interest in the attack on an exotic dancer in her room at the Holiday Inn Express in Warwick Thursday night, April 16, 2009.

BU med student arrested in Craigslist slaying

BOSTON (AP)—A Boston University medical student was arrested Monday in the shooting death in a hotel of a masseuse and the robbery of another woman who both advertised their services on Craigslist.

Phil Markoff, 22, was arrested during a traffic stop Monday afternoon on Interstate 95 in Walpole, south of Boston, Police Commissioner Ed Davis said at a news conference to announce the arrest. He is also suspected of being connected to an assault on a Las Vegas exotic dancer in Rhode Island last week.

“We are very, very happy to have this man off the street in such a timely way,” Davis said.

Obama seeks \$100M in government ‘efficiencies’

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday ordered his Cabinet to find ways to slice spending by \$100 million, but acknowledged it’s a “drop in the bucket” and said there’s a “confidence gap” that he needs to overcome.

Just back from a Latin America summit, Obama told the first formal Cabinet meeting of his administration that vast spending to combat the economic crisis was “the right thing to do.” But he also

Markoff’s arrest came days after his image was shown on surveillance video at the hotels. Davis said that authorities had him under observation for days before making the arrest.

Authorities said Markoff was originally from upstate New York and now lives in Quincy, just south of Boston. A Facebook profile matching Markoff’s identity, including his photograph, lists him as a 2007 graduate of State University of New York-Albany and in the 2011 class at BU.

A Boston University spokeswoman told Boston radio station WBZ-AM Markoff had been suspended from the medical school after his arrest.

said taxpayers still need to know that every dollar they give the government is being spent wisely.

“We also have a deficit—a confidence gap—when it comes to the American people,” he told reporters. “And we’ve got to earn their trust.”

Obama said the \$100 million would come from “efficiencies” in agency operations, and would be in addition to future cuts in programs that aren’t working.

Markoff is charged with killing Julissa Brisman, 26, who was found dead Tuesday at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. The New York City woman advertised massage services on Craigslist and had a massage table set up in the room where she was shot Tuesday, police said.

Markoff is scheduled to be arraigned in Boston Municipal Court on Tuesday.

Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley said Markoff is also charged with unlawful possession of a firearm. In addition, Conley said Markoff is charged with kidnapping and armed robbery in a separate case involving another woman he met on Craigslist.

Yet the red ink in the annual budget is currently in the hundreds of billions. He was asked if the efficiency saving isn’t just “a drop in the bucket.”

“It is,” he replied. “None of these things alone are going to make a difference. But cumulatively, they make an extraordinary difference because they start setting a tone ... \$100 million there, \$100 million here—pretty soon, even here in Washington, it adds up to real money.”

1,000 gather to commemorate Columbine victims

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)—With words of hope and healing, Coloradans on Monday marked the 10th anniversary of the Columbine High School shootings that left 12 students and a teacher dead.

About 1,000 people gathered for a sunset memorial service at Clement Park, next to the school, where survivors, relatives and current students reflected on the massacre. A dove was released for each of the 13 victims as

principal Frank DeAngelis read their names.

Addressing the survivors, DeAngelis said: “You were forced to grow up far too quickly.”

Two seniors at Columbine unleashed an attack with guns and pipe bombs on the morning of April 20, 1999. A bigger bomb, which they hoped would destroy the crowded cafeteria, failed to go off.

The gunmen, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17,

committed suicide.

“There are days I feel like it was yesterday. There are days it feels like a lifetime ago,” said Val Schnurr, a Columbine alumnus who was wounded that day.

Bill Clinton, who was president at the time of the shootings, addressed the crowd in videotaped remarks.

“It’s changed you, your community, your fellow Americans,” Clinton said of the tragedy.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

After IBM dalliance, Sun goes to Oracle for \$7.4B

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Sun Microsystems Inc.’s scramble to find a suitor landed the slumping server and software maker in the arms of Oracle Corp., which agreed to pay \$7.4 billion in cash for Sun in a startling marriage that would transform Silicon Valley and the computing industry. The acquisition announced Monday illustrates how some of the biggest and richest technology companies are racing to become one-stop shops for corporate and government customers. By picking up Sun and expanding heavily into hardware, Oracle would look much more like the company it beat out for Sun - IBM Corp., which appears unlikely to re-enter the bidding. Heavyweights like IBM, Hewlett-Packard Co., Cisco Systems Inc. and now Oracle all want to offer a richer mix of technology products. The companies hope to find more hooks into customers and use those relationships to sell other kinds of stuff. That setup, with a broad mix of services, software and hardware, helped Armonk, N.Y.-based IBM escape financial ruin in the 1990s and become one of the industry’s most profitable companies. IBM has forked out nearly \$13 billion on 40 acquisitions since 2006 to expand its offerings. HP has followed suit, spend-

Nation

Somali pirate arrives in NYC, awaits court hearing



AP
Police and FBI agents escort the Somali pirate suspect U.S. officials identified as Abduhl Wali-i-Musi into FBI headquarters in New York on Monday, April 20, 2009.

NEW YORK (AP)—The sole surviving Somali pirate from the hostage-taking of an American ship captain arrived in New York on Monday, smiling for a gaggle of cameras and reporters as federal agents led him into custody to face charges in the attack.

Abduhl Wali-i-Musi (AHB'-dul wahl-ih-MOO'-sih) was handcuffed and had a chain wrapped around his waist. His left hand was heavily bandaged from the wound he suffered during the skirmish on

the ship two weeks ago.

The smiling teenager seemed poised as he entered a federal building in a rainstorm, but he didn't say anything in response to reporters' shouted questions about whether he had any comment about the pirate episode.

Wali-i-Musi is the first person to be tried in the United States on piracy charges in more than a century. He was flown from Africa to a New York airport and taken into custody ahead of a court hearing Tuesday.

A law enforcement official fa-

miliar with the case said that the teenager was being charged under two obscure federal laws that deal with piracy and hostage-taking. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the charges had not been announced.

The teenager's arrival came on the same day that his mother appealed to President Barack Obama for his release. She says her son was coaxed into piracy by "gangsters with money."

"I appeal to President Obama to pardon my teenager; I request him to release my son or at least

allow me to see him and be with him during the trial," Adar Abdirahman Hassan said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from her home in Galka'yo town in Somalia.

The age and real name of the young pirate remained unclear. The mother said he is only 16 years old and is named Abdi Wali Abdulqadir Muse. The law enforcement official says he is at least 18, meaning prosecutors will not have to take extra legal steps to put him on trial in a U.S. court.

Stephen Hawking hospitalized, reported very ill

LONDON (AP)—Stephen Hawking, the British mathematician and physicist famed for his work on black holes, was rushed to a hospital Monday and was seriously ill, Cambridge University said. Hawking has been fighting a chest infection for several weeks and was being treated at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, the university city northeast of London, the university said.

"Professor Hawking is very ill," said Gregory Hayman, the university's head of communications. "He is undergoing tests. He has been unwell for a couple of weeks."

Later in the afternoon, Hayman said Hawking was "now comfortable but will be kept in hospital overnight."

The illness had caused Hawking to cancel an appearance at Arizona State University on April 6.

Obama defends secret memo release to CIA employees

WASHINGTON (AP)—Days after releasing top-secret memos that detailed the CIA's use of simulated drowning while interrogating terror suspects, President Barack Obama went to the spy agency's Virginia headquarters on Monday to defend his decision and bolster the morale of its employees.

"I acted primarily because of the exceptional circumstances that surrounded these memos,

particularly the fact that so much of the information was public," Obama said.

Last week, Obama's Justice Department published previously classified memos that described the Bush administration's legal justification for CIA interrogation techniques that included methods criticized as torture. Republican lawmakers and former CIA chiefs have criticized the release of the

memos, contending that revealing the limits of interrogation techniques will hamper the effectiveness of interrogators.

The memos detailed the use of waterboarding—a form of simulated drowning that Attorney General Eric Holder has denounced as torture—as well as sleep deprivation, isolation and physical violence.

According to the declassified memos, waterboard-

ing was used on alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed 183 times in March 2003. Suspected al-Qaida logistics chief Abu Zubaydah was subjected to the treatment 83 times in August 2002.

Obama said Monday that a court case was going to force the memos to be released and that much of what they contained had already been compromised through leaks to news media.



ACROSS THE NATION

4 people found dead in hotel north of Baltimore

TOWSON, Md. (AP)—Staff at a suburban Baltimore hotel unlocked a guest door Monday and discovered the bodies of a man, two women and a teenage girl, according to authorities who did not release a cause of death. The four were related and police were not looking for any suspects, said Baltimore County Police Cpl. Michael Hill. However, it was unclear whether the deaths might have been the result of a murder-suicide. Hill said the victims were not from the Baltimore area and that police were trying to contact the next of kin. Autopsies were planned for Tuesday, and police didn't release their identities. The ho-

tel staff made the discovery after the room occupants didn't check out when expected from the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel in Towson, just north of Baltimore, said Baltimore County Police Department spokesman Bill Toohey.

FBI workers accused of spying on dressing room

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)—Two FBI workers are accused of using surveillance equipment to spy on teenage girls as they undressed and tried on prom gowns at a charity event at a West Virginia mall. The FBI employees have been charged with conspiracy and committing criminal invasion of privacy. They were working in an FBI

satellite control room at the mall when they positioned a camera on temporary changing rooms and zoomed in for at least 90 minutes on girls dressing for the Cinderella Project fashion show, Marion County Prosecutor Pat Wilson said Monday. Gary Sutton Jr., 40, of New Milton and Charles Hommema of Buckhannon have been charged with the misdemeanors and face fines and up to a year in jail on each charge if convicted. Sutton has been released on bond, Wilson said, and Hommema is to be arraigned later this week. Wilson did not know Hommema's age. The workers were described in a complaint as "police officers," but prosecutors did not say whether the men were agents or describe what kind of work they did.

	Procurement And Supply CNMI Government	
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS		
RFP09-RHC-080 Submission: May 18, 2009 • Time: 2:00 p.m.		
"MANPOWER SERVICES FOR THE ROTA HEALTH CENTER"		
Copies of the Scope of Services may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base during regular working hours.		
A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 04, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, Songsong Village, Rota.		
Any questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Julian S. Calvo, RDH - Rota Health Center by fax to (670) 532-0955 or by e-mail to rhcadmin@ptic.com no later than May 07, 2009, close of business.		
Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.		
/s/ JOSEPH S. INOS Mayor of Rota	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, P&S	

	Procurement And Supply CNMI Government	
INVITATION TO BID		
ITB NO.: ITB09-DPL-076 Submission/Opening Date: May 15, 2009 • Time: 9:30 a.m.		
"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS - ROTA BRANCH"		
Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.		
Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.		
The lessor must comply with CNMI Public Law 15-23, Article 5, Section 8652.		
/s/ JOHN S. DEL ROSARIO, JR. SECRETARY OF DPL	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S	

	Procurement And Supply CNMI Government	
INVITATION TO BID		
ITB NO.: ITB09-DPS-077 Submission/Opening Date: May 08, 2009 • Time: 10:30 a.m.		
"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) DUI MOBILE TRAILER - CIF ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - ROTA POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"		
Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular working hours.		
Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.		
/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S	

	Procurement And Supply CNMI Government	
INVITATION TO BID		
ITB NO.: ITB09-TDOF-084 Submission/Opening Date: May 15, 2009 • Time: 10:00 a.m.		
"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - TINIAN BRANCH"		
Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.		
Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.		
The lessor must comply with CNMI Public Law 15-23, Article 5, Section 8652.		
/s/ THEODOSIA K. SANCHEZ RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, DEPT. OF FINANCE, TINIAN	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S	

	Procurement And Supply CNMI Government	
INVITATION TO BID		
ITB NO.: ITB09-SOF-073 Submission/Opening Date: April 24, 2009 • Time: 10:00 a.m.		
"FUEL SUPPLY/FLEET CARD SYSTEM"		
Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular working hours.		
Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.		
/s/ ELOY S. INOS SECRETARY OF FINANCE	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S	

	Procurement And Supply CNMI Government	
INVITATION TO BID		
ITB NO.: ITB09-DPS-074 Submission/Opening Date: May 08, 2009 • Time: 9:30 a.m.		
"PURCHASE OF SIX (6) COMPUTER NOTEBOOKS AND HARDWARE ACCESSORIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION, SAIPAN"		
Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular working hours.		
Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.		
/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S	

	Procurement And Supply CNMI Government	
INVITATION TO BID		
ITB NO.: ITB09-DPS-075 (A-D) Submission/Opening Date: May 08, 2009 • Time: 10:00 a.m.		
"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) COMPUTER SYSTEMS & ACCESSORIES, TWO (2) COLOR PRINTERS, TWO (2) COPIER MACHINES & TWO (2) FAX MACHINES (ONE OF EACH CIF - ROTA AND TINIAN) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - ROTA & TINIAN POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"		
Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular working hours.		
Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.		
/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY	/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S	

Asia

Somali pirates free Philippine tanker, 23 crew

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Somali pirates freed a chemical tanker and its 23 Filipino crew members Tuesday after holding them hostage for more than five months, a spokesman for the Philippine ship owner said.

Securing the safe release of the crew and the vessel was “difficult and protracted” and the company was “extremely pleased” with the result, Capt. Dexter Custodio, spokesman for Sagana Shipping Inc., said in a statement.

“They have been released, thank God!” said Doris Deseo, wife of Carlo Deseo, the ship’s 31-year-old third mate. “They are no longer in the hands of the pirates. I am super happy. That’s the only thing we have been waiting for.”

The ship was seized Nov. 10,

2008 by pirates in the Gulf of Aden while it was carrying a cargo of phosphoric acid from Dakar, Senegal, to Kandla, India, he said. Earlier reports said the Stolt Strength had been heading to Japan.

Custodio said he could not comment on whether ransom had been paid. “I have no idea because it was the company’s crisis management team that has the data about that,” he told The Associated Press.

Family members of the crew have told the AP that the Somali pirates earlier demanded \$5 million but that the amount had been reduced to about \$2.2 million last week.

Custodio said that depending on the available fuel, the ship would sail “to the closest safe

port so that they can go home.”

Doris Deseo said the company’s personnel supervisor sent her a cell phone text message that the ship and the crew had been released around noon Tuesday, and said she called the company to get confirmation.

Asuncion Pacheco, wife of 62-year-old ship captain Abelardo Pacheco, said she was informed that the tanker may be headed to Oman.

She was told by a company official that the amount of ransom paid to the pirates “will not be disclosed for the protection of the others,” referring to vessels still being held by the Somali gunmen.

“We are now going to the church for a thanksgiving mass,” she said.

2 Koreas at odds ahead of rare talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North and South Korea were at odds Tuesday in procedural wrangling that delayed the start of the first formal meeting between the two sides in more than a year, amid tensions over Pyongyang’s moves to restart its nuclear program.

South Korean officials traveled to the North Korean city of Kaesong in the morning for discussions that would mark the first official meeting between the two governments since Seoul’s conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office in February 2008.

But the talks still had not begun more than four hours after Seoul’s delegation crossed the heavily armed border.

“There is no progress,” said Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Ho-nyeon. “The talks have not begun yet.”

Kim declined to say what problems were encountered. His deputy, spokeswoman Lee Jong-joo, said earlier that liaison officers from the two sides were discussing unspecified procedural issues ahead of the formal meeting.

The difficulty even getting the talks started underlines how

soured the two sides’ relations are. The closely watched talks follow the North’s defiant April 5 rocket launch that drew international condemnation.

Putting additional strain on the meeting was North Korea’s recent warning that the South not join a U.S.-led program to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The North also has been holding a South Korean worker at a joint industrial complex for allegedly denouncing Pyongyang’s political system.

South Korea hopes to try to win the release of the detained worker during the talks.

Taliban in Pakistani ex-resort: ‘Welcome, Osama!’

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan was trying to end bloodshed when it let the idyllic Swat Valley fall under Islamic law last week. Instead, it has emboldened the Taliban and prompted an invitation—however improbable—for Osama bin Laden.

The local spokesman for the Taliban, which control the valley, told The Associated Press he’d welcome militants bent on battling U.S. troops and

their Arab allies if they want to settle there.

“Osama can come here. Sure, like a brother they can stay anywhere they want,” Muslim Khan said in a two-hour interview Friday, his first with a foreign journalist since Islamic law was imposed. “Yes, we will help them and protect them.”

Khan spoke in halting English he learned during four years painting houses in the U.S. before returning to Swat in 2002. He

averted his eyes as he spoke to a female journalist, in line with his strict understanding of Islam.

Pakistan reacted with alarm to his comments, saying it would never let him shelter the likes of bin Laden.

“We would have to go for the military operation. We would have to apply force again,” said Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira. “We simply condemn this. We are fighting this war against al-Qaida and the Taliban.”

ASIAN BRIEFS

China to show new subs, says no threat to region

BEIJING (AP)—China plans to display its nuclear submarines this week in the first known public appearance of some of its most potent warships, a sign of growing confidence in its rapid upgrade to new vessels and weapons systems. The vessels will appear at Thursday’s international fleet review in the northern port city of Qingdao, deputy navy commander Ding Yiping was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency on Tuesday. He did not give the specific types of vessels to be displayed. The People’s Liberation Army, controlled by the Communist Party, has tra-

ditionally kept its best weaponry tightly under wraps, but recent years have seen a growing openness as it seeks to take its place among the ranks of modern, professional militaries.

Sri Lanka: Tens of thousands flee fighting

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Tens of thousands of civilians fled Sri Lanka’s northern war zone in a record exodus ahead of the government’s deadline Tuesday for separatist Tamil rebels there to surrender, officials said. More than 39,000 civilians arrived at military checkpoints on Monday, within hours of a military operation that saw Sri Lankan soldiers

break through a barrier that the Tamil Tiger rebels had erected to defend their ever-shrinking slice of territory along the northern coast. The number of fleeing civilians Monday was the largest in a single day, and that rate was expected to increase Tuesday as more people made their way out, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said. The government issued a 24-hour deadline Monday for the cornered rebels to surrender or face a final assault—a signal that the insurgents may be on the verge of total defeat after 25 years of rebellion. They did not respond to the ultimatum as the Tuesday noon (0630 GMT) deadline approached.

World



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, left, delivers his speech in front of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, right, during the Durban review Conference (Durban II) at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, April 20, 2009.

Iran leader sparks walkout at UN over Israel

GENEVA (AP)—Dozens of Western diplomats walked out of a U.N. conference and a pair of rainbow-wigged protesters threw clown noses at Iran’s president Monday when the hard-line leader called Israel the “most cruel and repressive racist regime.”

The United States decried the remarks by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as hateful—reinjecting tension into a relationship that had been warming after President Barack Obama sought to engage Iran in talks on its nuclear program and other issues.

Ahmadinejad—the first government official to take the floor at the weeklong event in Geneva—delivered a rambling, half-hour speech that was by turns conciliatory and inflammatory. At one point he appealed for global unity in the fight against racism and then said the United States and Europe helped establish Israel after World War II at the expense of Palestinians.

“They resorted to military aggression to make an entire nation homeless under the pretext of Jewish suffering,” he said.

Jewish groups had lobbied heavily for a boycott of the conference, warning it could descend into anti-Semitism or other anti-Israel rhetoric, which marred the last such conference eight years ago in South Africa.

The meeting turned chaotic almost from the start when the two wigged protesters tossed the red clown noses at Ahmadinejad as he began his speech with a Muslim prayer. A Jewish student group from France said it had been trying to convey “the masquerade that this conference represents.”

Somali pirates fire on cargo ships in Gulf of Aden

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Somali pirates in speedboats opened fire Monday on two cargo ships in the latest hijacking attempts in the notorious Gulf of Aden. Another band of brigands freed a food aid freighter but only after receiving a \$100,000 “reward” from Somali businessmen. The latest attack occurred at

midday when pirates fired shots at a Chinese-owned, Panama-flagged cargo ship, the *MV New Legend Honor*, said Cmdr. Chris Davies, from NATO’s maritime headquarters in England.

Two NATO warships—one Canadian, the other British—scrambled helicopters in defense, Davies said. No damage

was reported to the cargo ship and the pirates escaped.

In a separate pre-dawn attack, pirates fired rockets at the Maltese-flagged *MV Atlantica* about 30 miles (50 kilometers) off Yemen’s coast in the Gulf of Aden, said Lt.-Cmdr. Alexandre Santos Fernandes, a spokesman for the NATO alliance.

WORLD BRIEFS

Jamaica hijacking foiled, but what about security?

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—A disoriented young man with a gun forced his way past security and barged onto a jetliner destined for Cuba, taking the crew hostage, firing a bullet that grazed the co-pilot’s face and demanding to be flown off the island, witnesses and police said Monday. After eight hours of fruitless negotiations, soldiers stormed the plane and arrested the man without further injury, but authorities were deeply embarrassed about the security breach at Montego Bay’s airport, a major Caribbean tourist hub. “There was quite clearly

a breach of security at the airport, and I’ve asked for an investigation to be done immediately,” said Prime Minister Bruce Golding, who arrived on the scene overnight to oversee talks with the hijacker.

Army troops in Iraq prepare to head to Afghanistan

BAGHDAD (AP)—Only in Iraq a few weeks, nearly 500 U.S. Army combat engineers who specialize in clearing roads of explosives learned they were being shipped off to southern Afghanistan, one of the clearest signs of America’s shifting wartime priorities. The transfer, which moved into its final stages Monday,

is the largest movement so far of personnel and equipment from Iraq as President Barack Obama puts the focus on the fight in the Taliban heartland. “We are probably going to be the beginning of the influx you are going to see to Afghanistan,” Lt. Col. Kevin Landers, commander of the Fort Carson, Colo.-based 4th Engineer Battalion, said as crews packed crates and cleaned vehicles for the flight to Kandahar. It’s now clear some of the troops and firepower will flow directly from Iraq, where the Pentagon plans to gradually draw down its more than 132,000 personnel before the withdrawal of all combat forces by September 2010.

Campus Life

Boosting capacity of NMC students to succeed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College dean of Student Services Janice Tenorio, seated, with managers of the Division of Student Services. Standing from left, Martin Gerbens, director of Library Services; Perry Inos Jr., Student Activities coordinator; Clarice Arriola, Student Support Services; Jeanette Villagomez, director of Educational Talent Search; Marian Tudela, director of Upward Bound; Herbert Del Rosario, director of the CNMI Archives; Rosaline Cepeda, director of Admissions and Records; and Leo Pangelinan, director of Counseling Programs and Services.

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Newly appointed dean of Student Services at Northern Marianas College, Janice Tenorio shares with *Saipan Tribune* her hopes and expectations as she takes on this challenging new role for CNMI students. As dean, Tenorio is responsible for overseeing various divisions that administer vital programs and services that promote students' educational advancement and enrichment. Last year, Tenorio served as director of Student Support Services, which is part of the Division of Student Services. It handles some 180 students per year and provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. The new dean possesses a bachelor's degree from Boise State University and a master's degree in educational leadership from San Diego State University.

***Saipan Tribune:* What are the important roles you play as the newly appointed dean of Student Services?**

Answer: This position carries one of the most important responsibilities of the college: the provision of high quality services to our students. We play a critical role in assisting students not only in achieving their academic goals, but also in helping them as they grow professionally, socially, and intellectually. To do this, we want to offer a diverse range of programs and services that are student-focused and success-oriented.

ST: Prior to becoming dean, was there any job at the lower level that you would not want to give up? Why?

A: I think all the jobs I've held at the Northern Marianas College have been beneficial and educational. Each position, whether it's a management level or a staff level position, plays a key role in enhancing the students' experience at NMC. One of the greatest perks of becoming the dean of Student Services is that I will continue to have a high

level of interaction with the students. They are my passion and they are what drive me to do my best.

ST: What are your expectations now that you're dealing directly with students?

A: I've always been dealing directly with students even with the other positions I have held at the college, including the director of Admissions and Records and the director of the federally-funded Student Support Services. I have always maintained an open door policy with students, and I've always encouraged them to come see me if they need any guidance. In fact, one of the things I enjoy doing daily is walking around campus and meeting with various students and asking them how their classes are going and whether they need any assistance.

ST: In your first few weeks on the job, what particular challenges have you encountered and how did you handle them?

A: Of course, the college's accreditation status is keeping everyone on campus extremely busy. The directors within the Division of Student Services, including the acting dean, Leo Pangelinan, have been doing a great job in making sure all the work needed to meet accreditation standards was being executed. I wanted to make sure the momentum was sustained. One of the first things I also wanted to do was strengthen the partnerships with the other divisions at the college. Now more than ever, we need to be working as a team to move forward.

ST: What important values do you want to instill in NMC students?

A: There are many values that I continually promote when working with students. Topping that list would be the value of working hard and furthering one's education. I also want to help build their commitment to helping others and to regularly volunteering in various college and community events.

ST: Any particular policy or programs you want to initiate at the col-

lege's Student Services Department?

A: There are many new initiatives that I have planned for the department. One of these is to continue building staff capacity in program review and assessment activities. We also want to strengthen some of the current services we offer and build greater awareness of their existence. For example, we offer tutoring services, standardized testing assistance, and financial assistance to both college students and high school students. We're also currently building our career services office by sponsoring more activities that help prepare our students for the labor force.

ST: What specific areas in the Student Services Department need to be improved?

A: There's always room for improvement in all the programs and services we provide. One of the main priorities I have is to improve our retention programs to ensure that students have affordable access to daycare so students who have young children can continue going to school. I am working closely with the president to do this. We're also working on creating more professional development opportunities for our staff and student employees. We also want to strengthen ties with the Public School System so that we can plan other mutually beneficial activities like the recent Start Smart Seminar.

ST: At the end of each day, how would you describe your experiences as new dean of Student Services?

A: Extremely satisfying. Sometimes, I come home extremely late at night from work, but because working with students has always been my passion, long hours at the college has never been an overwhelming burden. It's been a continually rewarding experience to see many students I have helped become extremely productive members of society. Many of these students are now high-level government officials, business executives, or community leaders. It is extremely gratifying to know that NMC has played an important role in their growth and success.

YOUTH ISSUES IN PICTURES

The American Literature and English classes of Katharyn Tuten-Puckett at the Saipan International School were recently given an assignment to take pictures of things and issues that concern them. The students were also asked to write captions for their pictures. The *Saipan Tribune* has agreed to feature some of those pictures, so that our readers will know that the islands' youth are just as anxious as the rest of us about what is happening to the Commonwealth.



OALL HAAG

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

This picture shows the closed Onwel garment factory. All of the garment factories on Saipan have closed down because of the economic problem. About 400 Thais, Chinese, Filipinos, and other alien workers were laid off from Onwel. A lot of people don't have work and most of them went back to their country.



NAYEON KIM/10TH GRADE

THREE-LEGGED DOG

On March 10, I went outside to look for homeless or sick dogs at 4pm-5pm. I went to the beach, and I saw plenty of poor dogs like the one in the picture that has only three legs. When I am going somewhere in the car or walking on the beach, some dogs look so skinny that their bones are showing. I think the homeless dogs are increasing because the dogs' owners are throwing away the dogs if the dogs are not growing well or are ugly looking. When I go to the beach for fun and to eat lunch, the dogs come to us for food. I know that they are starving because no one gives them food, and they couldn't find food around the beach.



NAYEON KIM/10TH GRADE

LITTERING

On March 7, I went to Chalan Kanoa beach with my friend at noon. I went to many beaches but Chalan Kanoa beach was the dirtiest beach I ever saw. The beach did not just have trash everywhere but in some places where people had a party, there were plenty of garbage. Who will clean up this garbage? If no one cleans them up, it will keep going into the water, and the water will be polluted. In order to make the beach clean, people should clean up after themselves. If these issues keep occurring, it will not only affect Saipan but also everywhere.

Life & Style

Playwright Lynn Nottage wins Pulitzer Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Stories of race and gender prevailed at this year's Pulitzer Prizes, with "Ruined," Lynn Nottage's harrowing tale of survival set against the backdrop of an African civil war, winning for drama Monday and books about slavery, civil rights and Andrew Jackson also receiving awards.

In a victory for the short story, Elizabeth Strout's "Olive Kitteridge," a collection set in Maine and linked by the forthright title character, a math teacher and general scold with an under-

standing heart. It was the first book of stories to win since 2000 (Jhumpa Lahiri's "Interpreter of Maladies").

"I'm thrilled that stories are being recognized, whether they're linked or not," said Strout, who added that she is close to finishing a novel, describing it as "one big, long messy story."

Three prize winners centered on racial history, from colonial times to the 20th century.

The general nonfiction award went to "Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement

of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II" by Douglas A. Blackmon, Atlanta bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal. Newsweek editor Jon Meacham won the biography prize for "American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House," a best-seller about the populist president whose sympathy for the less fortunate never extended to slaves.

"Jackson represents the

best and the worst of us," Meacham said.

"It's a huge honor for me," Blackmon said of his Pulitzer, "but more importantly I hope it really validates the idea that this is a part of American history that we have ignored and neglected, and it's time for a really dramatic reinterpretation of what happened to African-Americans during that period of time."



Nottage

Annette Gordon-Reed's "The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family," which received the National Book Award last fall, won for history. Gordon-Reed's book documents the life and family of Sally Hemings, the slave girl who many believe had an intimate relationship with Thomas Jefferson.

"Race is something that people are quite focused upon," said Gordon-Reed, currently in Sydney, Australia for a conference of Thomas Jefferson schol-

ars and scheduled to give a talk on President Obama. "It's an internationally interesting subject. People here are fascinated by our history."

Minimalist Steve Reich took the music prize for "Double Sextet," an interweaving of two sextets that he calls "very very rock and roll." He had been a finalist for the prize more than a dozen times and believes his win reflects a change in the board, which in the past may have favored composers who were university professors.

New Dan Brown novel coming in September

NEW YORK (AP)—The book world has a stimulus plan: a new Dan Brown novel.

Six years after the release of his mega-selling "The Da Vinci Code," the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group announced that Brown's "The Lost Symbol," a thriller set during a 12-hour period and featuring "Da Vinci Code" symbolist Robert Langdon, will come out in September.



Brown

"This novel has been a strange and wonderful journey,"

Brown said in a statement issued Monday by his publisher. "Weaving five years of research into the story's twelve-hour time frame was an exhilarating challenge. Robert Langdon's life clearly moves a

lot faster than mine." The first printing will be 5 million copies, Knopf Doubleday said, the highest in the publish-

er's history but well below the opening 10 million-plus print run for the final "Harry Potter" book. "The Da Vinci Code" has sold more than 80 million worldwide and inspired a spin-off community of travel books, diet books, conspiracy books, parodies and religious works.

A film version, starring Tom Hanks, came out in 2006 and made more than \$700 million at the box office. Hanks will again be seen as Langdon when the adaptation of Brown's "Angels & Demons" debuts in May.

Porterhouse sizzles at bulldog beauty contest



Porterhouse sits on the throne after being crowned the winner of the 30th Drake Relays Beautiful Bulldog Contest, Monday, April 20, 2009, in Des Moines, Iowa.

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—For three years, Porterhouse was so close to the title he could drool on it. Now, the Beautiful Bulldog crown is his to slobber on for the rest of the year. After two runner-up finishes and one "Mr. Congeniality" title, Porterhouse finally nabbed "top dog" honors Monday when he was crowned the winner of Drake University's annual Beautiful Bulldog Contest in downtown Des Moines.

Porterhouse, a 4-year-old brown and white bulldog from Des Moines, beat out 49 other dogs from eight states to claim the title. The event coincides with the Drake Relays, hosted for the 100th time this week by the Drake University Bulldogs.

The judges weren't looking for the prettiest mutt in the mix. No, they wanted to see drool, blood-shot eyes and bowed legs—and costumes don't hurt either. Owners slapped tutus, blonde wigs, goggles and all kinds of wacky hats on their precious pups.

Porterhouse, who finished second in 2006 and 2007, sported camouflage and an army helmet for the occasion.

"They're not looking for pedigree," Dolph Pulliam, the master of ceremonies for the event, said of the judging. "You use your own imagination."

The tongue-in-cheek contest has grown in popularity in recent years. Pulliam said the 50 slots for this year's pageant filled up faster than ever before and that Drake could have had 100 bulldogs in the competition if it had the room.

"The people love it," Pulliam said. "They call us year-round, so they love this contest."

Porterhouse beat out Maxxis, another Des Moines bulldog, to claim top honors.

Porterhouse's owner, Erin Bell, said her dog is a sweet, friendly guy who always makes people laugh. She and her husband, Kevin Bell, had a feeling Monday morning that, after three years of coming so close, Porterhouse would finally break through this time.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late
**MARCELLA LIETO
NORITA CAMACHO**
Lovingly known as "MARCY"

would like to invite you to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year anniversary of her passage unto eternal life.

Nightly Rosary will be said every night starting April 24, 2009 (Friday) at 7:00 pm at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag. Daily mass will also be offered at Kristo Rai Church every morning at 6:00 am.

On the final day, **May 02, 2009 (Saturday)**, Rosary will be at 5:00 pm followed by Eucharistic Mass Celebration at 6:00 pm at Santa Remedios Church. Dinner will be served immediately after mass at the Tanapag Social Hall.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Familia

In Humble Gratitude

**Juana San Nicolas
Manglona**

Born to Life: December 24, 1960
Eternal Rest: April 2, 2009

we, the family of the late

JUANA SN. MANGLONA

wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow.

We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers at the daily masses was very comforting. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

THANK YOU AND SI YU'US MA'ASE

FROM THE FAMILY

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

HOWARD IGLECIAS MACARANAS

September 26, 1955 - April 16, 2009

*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:***Common-law-wife :** SUSAN PAGUIO ESCUETA**Children & Spouses :**JEFFREY & KEILANI S. REYES (Keith Simmons, Jasmine Reyes,
Kaine Reyes, Keanue Reyes, Jade Reyes, Jordan Reyes, Kevai Reyes,
Journey Reyes, Jayden Reyes, Kayden Reyes.)CHARLENE M. & CLEMENTE S. SABLAN (Luis Andrew C.
Macaranas & Yolanda S. Cruz, Chantyll Jasmin Q. Sablan &
Treat Kaipat, Germaine Margretrose C. Macaranas, Francisco
C. Macaranas)NAEDEEN C. MACARANAS & PEDRO T. SKILANG (Enson
Howard C. Macaranas)SOHN ROKUE C. MACARANAS & OLIVIA T. PELISAMEN
(Ed Patrick T. Pelisamen, Tieshon Rokue P. Macaranas, Akiko
Lyvonne P. Macaranas)KEONE HOWARD C. MACARANAS & LEEANDRA A.
SABLAN

STACEY P. ESCUETA

ARIANA P. MACARANAS

AUBREY P. MACARANAS

Brothers / Sisters & In-laws:

WILLIAM I. & SUSANA R. MACARANAS

GILBERT I. & ESTELLA SN. MACARANAS

JIMMY I. & ELOIDA D. MACARANAS

DARLENE P. MACARANAS

ANTHONY I. MACARANAS

RAY TUPAS

CLAUDIA I. MACARANAS & GEORGE DELOS REYES

Brothers / Sister-In-Laws:

GERILIMINA C. CEPEDA

PEDRO P. & JEANNY C. TOGAWA

DIONICIO C. & TRINIDAD C. REYES

JUAN C. & CORAZON CEPEDA

JAMES & BRIGIDA REYES

LUIS CEPEDA & AMY ROBERTS

GARY MIGUEL C. & MELDY CEPEDA

GEORGE TEREGEYO & FRANCISCA CEPEDA

*In his new life, he now joins his:***Wife :** †MARGARITA C. MACARANAS**Parents :** †ANDRES G. & †PETRA I. MACARANAS**Parents-In-Law :** †LUIS I & †TRINIDAD C. CEPEDA**Brother :** †RICHARD I. MACARANAS**Sister :** †IRENE M. TUPAS**Brother In-Law :** †SANTIAGO R. CRUZ**Sister In-Law :** †MARIANA C. CRUZ*He also survived and greatly missed by his numerous nieces,
nephews, relatives and friends.*

Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each morning at
Kristo Rai Church in Saipan at 6:00am. Holy Rosary is being
prayed each evening at 7:30pm at Kristo Rai Church in
Saipan and San Jose Church in Tinian.

Thursday, April 23, 2009 : Memorial Services – Saipan

- 7:00am - Holy Rosary – Nuestra Senora dela
Paz Memorial Chapel
- 7:30am - Mortal remains will be escorted from
Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church
- 8:30am - Public Viewing/Last Respects
- 9:30am - Memorial Mass
- 11:00am - Preparation for transport of remains
to Tinian
- 1:30pm - Departure to Tinian
- 1:45pm - Arrival / Holy Rosary at Tinian Health Center
- 7:30pm - Holy Rosary

Friday, April 24, 2009 : Funeral Services – Tinian

- 7:00am - Gathering at Tinian Health Center
- 7:30am - Funeral cortege proceeds to San Jose Church
- 8:00am - Responso Service
- 8:30am - Holy Rosary
- 9:00am - Public Viewing / Last Respects
- 11:00am - Mass of Christian Burial
- 12:30pm - Interment services – Tinian Public Cemetery

Please Join Us In Prayers

THE FAMILY

India probes dispute over 'Slumdog' child star

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Indian police are investigating claims and counterclaims by the parents of a child star in "Slumdog Millionaire" after a British tabloid alleged the father tried to sell the 9-year-old girl to an undercover reporter.

The accusations further complicated the lives of the families of the slum-dwelling child stars, who have come under intense scrutiny since the movie skyrocketed to Oscar-winning fame and grossed more than \$300 million worldwide.

Khurshid Begum, the estranged mother of "Slumdog Millionaire" star Rubina Ali, filed a complaint with Mumbai police on Sunday after News of the World reported that the father planned to put her up for adoption. The British newspaper said the deal was allegedly offered to one of its reporters posing as a sheik from the Mideast.

The newspaper—owned by News International Ltd., the main British subsidiary of News Corp., which also owns "Slumdog" distributor Fox Searchlight Pictures—said the father was demanding millions of rupees, worth the equivalent of \$400,000.

"They should be punished," Begum said after getting into a

physical confrontation with Rubina's stepmother. "No father should dare sell his daughter."

Police took the father, Rafiq Qureshi, and Rubina from their home in a Mumbai slum to a police station where he was briefly questioned.

Speaking to reporters outside the police station Sunday, Qureshi denied the report, saying he had been lured to a fancy Mumbai hotel by someone claiming they were moved by Rubina's story and wanted to help her.

"We had gone there to meet them in goodwill," he said. "But they have made false allegations about me and tried to frame me."

He said he was promised cash and "were talking of giving more too" if he gave up his daughter. "But I refused," he said.

Qureshi said he told police he believed it could be a plot to regain custody by his ex-wife, who left several years ago, only to return and try to play a role in Rubina's life after the film's success.

"My children are with me, and I could give my life for them," Qureshi said. "I will never sell them to anybody, no matter how much money they offer me."

Police said they were investigating.

"There are claims and counterclaims made by the mothers and the father," police officer Nishar Tamboli told reporters. "We are probing the matter."

The newspaper quoted Qureshi as saying that Hollywood was to blame for forcing him to give her up for adoption.

"We've got nothing out of this film," Rafiq Qureshi was quoted as saying. "I have to consider what's best for me, my family and Rubina's future."

The children in "Slumdog Millionaire" were chosen with the local help of casting director Loveleen Tandan. To give the film a realistic view of the Mumbai slums, she and director Danny Boyle decided only weeks before shooting began to cast local kids who were not professional actors.

Rubina and young co-star Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail were discovered on the Mumbai streets by the filmmakers. The film's adult stars, Dev Patel and Freida Pinto, shot to international stardom, becoming red-carpet regulars during Hollywood's awards season.

Patel, whose only previous credit was the British teen drama "Skins," since landed a role in the fantasy adventure



This Sunday, April 19, 2009 photo shows 'Slumdog Millionaire' actor Rubina Ali, left, leaving the police station along with her father Rafiq Qureshi, right, in Mumbai, India.

"The Last Airbender" from director M. Night Shyamalan. A model, Pinto made her movie debut with "Slumdog" and has scored roles in the next films from Woody Allen and Julian

Schnabel ("The Diving Bell and the Butterfly").

The younger stars got a taste of Hollywood glamor, too, attending the Academy Awards and joining the filmmakers on

stage as they accepted the best-picture Oscar for "Slumdog."

Following the success of the rags-to-riches tale, some criticized the filmmakers for failing to share the wealth with Mumbai's millions of slum dwellers. Others accused them of exploiting two of the child stars, Rubina and Azharuddin, 10, who grew up in a wretched Mumbai slum.

The filmmakers' initial efforts to help their families were thwarted by media attention, the changing demands of relatives and the film's runaway success. Sudden fame and relative fortune also complicated relations between the actors and their neighbors.

The filmmakers feared that if they gave the families a lump sum, the money would be squandered or extorted. Instead, they set up a trust fund for the two children that was supposed to provide them with a good education, adequate housing and social support.

Last week they also announced a donation of \$747,500 to a charity devoted to improving the lives of street children in Mumbai. Fox Searchlight didn't immediately return telephone calls Monday for comment on the allegations against Rubina's father.

Malawi court to hear Madonna adoption appeal May 4

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—Madonna's appeal of a court ruling denying her request to adopt a 3-year-old girl from Malawi will be heard next month, a court official said Monday.

The pop star is not required to be present for the appeal, which may last two weeks. Liz Rosenberg, Madonna's representative, said Monday she did not believe that Madonna would attend.

Joseph Chigona, Registrar of the High Court and the Supreme Court of Appeal, said the case will come before three judges from the Supreme Court of Appeal on May 4.

"As with all court cases involving infants, this one will be in chambers, not in an open court," Chigona said.

Madonna has said she still wants to adopt Chifundo "Mer-

cy" James. The singer has already adopted a son, David, from Malawi, a poor country in southern Africa.

Malawi requires prospective parents to live in the country for 18 to 24 months while child welfare authorities assess their suitability—a rule that was not applied when Madonna was allowed to take David to London in 2006.

Madonna's Malawian lawyer, Alan Chinula, said he was hopeful the appeal would succeed.

"We believe the lower court judge erred by basing her judgment on an archaic law of over 50 years ago," he said.

The judge in the lower court said Madonna's previous adoption was the only case in which the residency requirement had

been waived, and said she was concerned that doing so again could set a precedent that could jeopardize children.

The judge said she was not questioning Madonna's intentions, and praised the work the singer's charity has done to feed, educate and provide medical care for Malawi's orphans.

Madonna recently told a newspaper in Malawi that she wants to

educate Mercy and empower her to help people in Malawi.

"I want to provide Mercy with a home, a loving family environment and the best education and health care possible," she said in an e-mailed response to questions from the Nation. "And it's my hope that she, like David, will one day return to Malawi and help the people of their country."

Beyonce talks tour, movie, Etta James and Twitter

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce says one of the toughest parts of summer tour has been condensing more than a decade's hits into a two-hour show. Judging from a recent photo shoot, figuring out how to perform them in Thierry Mugler's elaborate, over-the-top costumes is just as difficult.

Beyonce strutted gingerly in one such outfit, with a motorcycle handle-type top and flashing light at the center. But the camera brought out Sasha Fierce, her alter ego moving confidently in the outrageous getup and stiletto heels.

"I'm never gonna go on stage or do a video and not work until my feet are blistered, and until I'm basically, I can't walk any more," the giggly but exhausted entertainer said later. "I always give, and I do that because I know how lucky I am, to do my job."



In this file undated photo originally provided by Paramount Pictures, Anika Noni Rose, left, Beyonce Knowles and Jennifer Hudson, right, perform in the film "Dreamgirls."

In a recent interview, Beyonce—whose latest CD, "I Am ... Sasha Fierce," is double platinum—talked about concerts (her tour kicks off June 21 at Madison Square Garden) in the YouTube age, what she will fight fiercely for and why Etta

James never had her worried.

AP: How will this tour be different from your 2007 'B'Day' tour?

Beyonce: It's going to be more emotional, because this album, "I Am," that portion was a lot more real and raw

and more sensitive. ... The best part about this tour is I'm working with Thierry Mugler, who is an icon and a legend, and I've been a fan.

AP: Often snippets of concerts end up on the Internet. Is it frustrating not being able

to surprise people anymore?

Beyonce: It's very frustrating now. ... It's great because people can get a little sneak peek and say, "Oh, I wanna come to the show" or "I don't wanna go to that show" (laughs), and I'm fans of people so I go on there and check it out too. But you put so much of your heart and time into the wardrobe ... it's kind of unfortunate that people can see the show months before you get into their city, but that's life.

AP: One YouTube video from your last tour showed you falling, getting up and continuing.

Beyonce: A lot of people with heart can see that I have heart, and I encourage other people to have that same strength and fight, and I definitely get tired, I definitely mess up, I definitely fall down stairs. I forget the words, sometimes, but that's just life. I guess the question is, what are you going to do after that? And I always get back up, and it just makes me even stronger.

AP: In your new movie "Obsessed," out on Friday, you play a wife who fights to protect her

family. What is the hardest thing you ever fought for?

Beyonce: Everything that's worth anything you have to fight for. You have to fight in your relationships, I have to fight for my career, I have to fight to stay in shape, because I get tempted to eat good old chocolate (laughs), and all this stuff everybody loves. It's all a fight, but it's worth it.

AP: When you sang "At Last" for the Obamas at the inauguration ball, Etta James said some pretty harsh things about you but later said she was joking. Did you know she was joking?

Beyonce: I played Etta James (in last year's "Cadillac Records"), so I did my research, I read her book. I was not at all surprised. That's Etta. She's hilarious (laughs).

AP: Your sister Solange twitters all the time. Do you do it

Beyonce: My sister is the Twitter queen. She told me about the twittering, but I don't get it, I feel like I'm getting really old. I'm like, what? I don't understand. Just call me.

NBC sending Ann Curry into 2 war zones

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC “Today” show news anchor Ann Curry is heading to two war zones this week.

She is traveling to both Iraq and Afghanistan to report on how the wars are being reshaped under the administration of President Barack Obama. Her reports are to air on both the “Today” show and NBC’s “Nightly News.”

NBC would say little about her specific reports, except that she will be given some unprecedented access. She may also try to do some reporting in Pakistan.

Her “Today” colleague Matt Lauer gets the rep, but Curry has been a real globe-trotter. Since the beginning of 2008, she’s tried to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and been to the Congo, Serbia, Pakistan, Japan, China and France. She’s been to Darfur four times since 2006.



AP
In this Oct. 24, 2008 file photo, NBC “Today” news anchor Ann Curry attends the Friars Club Roast of Matt Lauer in New York.

‘Grey’s Anatomy’ actress pregnant with first child



NEW YORK (AP)—Paging McDreamy: Do you know your fiancée is pregnant? Not really—just the actress who plays her.

Ellen Pompeo—who plays Dr. Meredith Grey, the future bride of Dr. Derek “McDreamy” Shepherd on “Grey’s Anatomy”—and her real-life love, Chris Ivery, are expecting their first child together.

Pompeo’s publicist, Jennifer Allen, did not give a due date.

The 39-year-old actress and Ivery, a record producer, are one of Hollywood’s low-key couples. After three years of dating, they quietly tied the knot in November 2007 in a ceremony at New York City Hall.

Pompeo heads an ensemble cast on the ABC series. This season, Shepherd finally proposed to Grey, satisfying fans who’ve hankered to see the star-crossed surgical duo walk down the aisle.

In this Feb. 8, 2008 file photo, actress Ellen Pompeo attends the Marc Jacobs fall 2008 collection fashion show during Fashion Week in New York.

AP

No word on paparazzi in police log on Madonna fall

BRIDGEHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—A police report on Madonna’s fall from a horse in the Hamptons is silent on whether paparazzi scared the animal, as her spokeswoman has said.

The Southampton Town police report says only that the pop superstar “was a victim of a fall from a horse” Saturday and was taken to Southampton Hospital with “unknown injuries.” It’s unclear whether she told police anything about the circumstances surrounding the accident.

The 50-year-old singer was treated for minor injuries and bruises, according to her spokeswoman, Liz Rosenberg.

Rosenberg has said paparazzi leaped out of some bushes and startled the horse Madonna was riding in Bridgehampton, a haven for celebrities and the wealthy on Long Island’s eastern end.

Photographer Thomas Hinton has said Madonna’s host, Steven Klein, was the only photographer around when the singer fell. Hinton said he made pictures of Madonna from a public road before and after the accident but wasn’t there when she fell.

Rosenberg said Monday she was unsure whether Madonna spoke to police about the inci-

dent but the singer stands by her statement.

“Isn’t it kind of ridiculous that (photographers are) saying that they’re not there when there are all of these pictures?” Rosenberg asked.

The “Material Girl” and “Like a Virgin” singer also was thrown from a horse in England in the summer of 2005, cracking three ribs and breaking her collarbone and a hand.

A couple of months later, she and talk show host David Letterman rode horses outside his studio as part of her appearance on CBS’ the “Late Show with David Letterman” on CBS.



AP

In this Dec. 5, 2008 file photo, Oprah Winfrey arrives at The Hollywood Reporter’s annual Women in Entertainment Breakfast in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Winfrey cancels program on Columbine anniversary

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey decided Monday to pull an already-taped episode of her talk show that was to mark the 10th anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre, saying it “focused too much on the killers.”

The episode, “10 Years Later: The Truth about Columbine,” was to air on the Monday anniversary of the massacre in Littleton, Colo., that killed 12

students and a teacher.

“I decided to pull the Columbine show today. After reviewing it, I thought it focused too much on the killers. Today, hold a thought for the Columbine community. This is a hard day for them,” Winfrey wrote on Oprah.com and her Facebook page. A similar message appeared on her Twitter feed. A Harpo Productions Inc. spokeswoman confirmed the posts.

Columbine Task Force lead investigator Kate Battan, FBI special agent Dwayne Fuselier, Dave Cullen—author of the book “Columbine”—and Columbine High School principal Frank DeAngelis had taped the episode of “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”

Winfrey said a program about a mother released from prison would run in place of the Columbine piece.

Crowd applauds Salonen’s finale with LA orchestra

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Esa-Pekka Salonen says he’ll return Europe and focus on composing after taking his final bow as music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

The 50-year-old Finn got standing ovations Sunday at Walt Disney Concert Hall as he ended a 17-year tenure that elevated the orchestra’s international standing. Before the Igor Stravinsky program, Salonen was named its

first “conductor laureate.”

The show, his 973rd concert with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, concluded his stint as its longest-serving director. Venezuelan native Gustavo Dudamel, 28, will take over in the fall with a free concert Oct. 3 at the Hollywood Bowl.

Salonen praised the boisterous Dudamel, saying he admires him “as a conductor, as a musician, and as a person.”

A future together is in doubt for couple with different goals

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am in my mid-20s and in a long-term relationship. I can see myself getting married and having children in the next few years. So what do you do when your partner does not share your lifetime goals?

He has told me marriage is on the horizon “someday, maybe,” but he has no desire for children. I love him dearly and won’t put pressure on him, but have made my intentions clear.

How should I handle his wish to remain childless and unmarried when it is a lifetime dream of mine?

DREAMING IN WISCONSIN



Dear Abby

DEAR DREAMING: Marriage may be on your boyfriend’s horizon “someday, maybe,” but so is interplanetary tourism to Mars. When you realize that your partner does not share your lifetime goals, what you should do is end the relationship on the highest note possible and move on.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have a relative, “Jerry,” whom we dearly love. However, he has the disgusting habit of flossing his teeth in every room except the bathroom. After we eat, Jerry gets up and proceeds to floss his teeth in the kitchen, the living room or wherever he likes. He has even stood behind others and done it right over their shoulders. It’s disgusting!

Several of us have asked him, politely, to floss in the bathroom or somewhere private, but it made him extremely defensive and angry. I’m sure there are others out there who do it. We just want Jerry and others to know that it is not appropriate and is considered rude.

SICK TO MY STOMACH IN KENNEWICK, WASH.

DEAR SICK TO YOUR STOMACH: Not only is your relative’s behavior inappropriate and rude, it is also gross. The reason people floss their teeth in a bathroom, preferably over a sink, becomes evident to anyone who has ever cleaned the bathroom mirror. To floss anywhere else, particularly over someone’s shoulder, is unsanitary.

There is a saying, “The best defense is a strong offense.” If Jerry wasn’t already aware that what he was doing was wrong, he wouldn’t have reacted the way he did when you asked him to stop. Shame on him. His behavior is boorish.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: High school graduations are just around the corner, and I would like people to give careful consideration to whom they send announcements.

Every year I receive announcements—including pictures, calling cards, etc.—from people I barely know and whose children I don’t know at all. Because we say hello in the break room or pass each other in the neighborhood does not mean you need to send me an announcement. I don’t know your child, and I don’t send gifts to grads I don’t know.

So save yourself time and money and leave folks you barely know off the list. Believe me, if someone wants to acknowledge your child’s graduation, he or she will do so without being asked.

NOT INTERESTED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR NOT INTERESTED: Because you receive an announcement in the mail does not mean you are required to send the graduate a gift. Sometimes families send them out because they are proud and want to share the news of their child’s achievement with people they consider to be friends and/or their co-workers.

When you receive a graduation announcement, you have two choices: Ignore it or acknowledge it. I vote for acknowledging it—with a congratulatory phone call or a nice card.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



AP

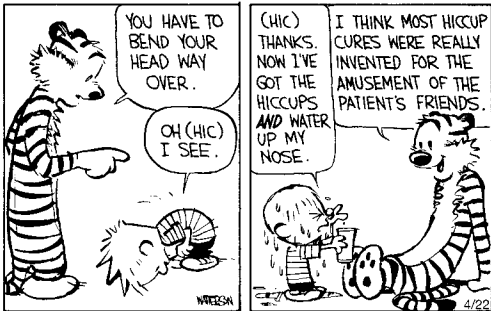
In this photo released by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Esa-Pekka Salonen acknowledges applause as he conducts his final concert after 17 years as Music Director on Sunday, April 19, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

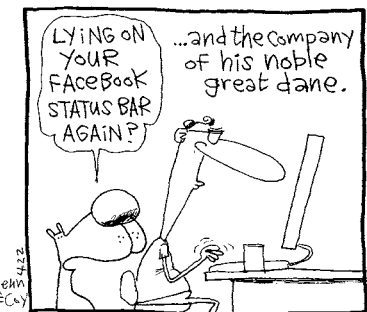
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

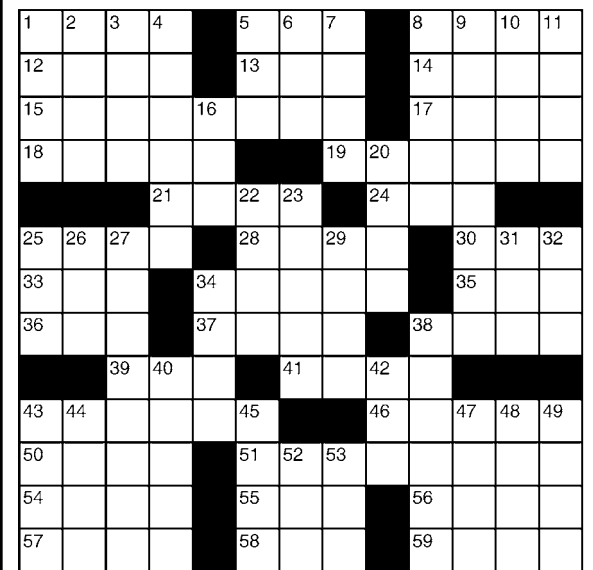
ACROSS 37 Con 38 Showing 5 Pitcher's chapeau 8 Memo writer's "Now!" 12 Eastern bigwig 13 Actor Tognazzi 14 "Monopoly" pair 15 Buck 17 Bullets 18 Switch-blade 19 Wet 21 Notion 24 Work with 25 Equitable 28 Culture medium 30 Eve, originally 33 "— Lay Dying" 34 Eugene O'Neill specialty 35 Geological period 36 Emeril's interjection

DOWN 1 Barrel 2 Infamous 3 "La Boheme" role 4 Gain 5 Prompt 6 Earlier 7 Frogs' hangout 8 Either of two presidents 9 One with a silly smile 10 Pinnacle 11 Laborer 16 Started 20 Emanation 22 Have coming 23 Marble variety 25 Poke 26 Dos Passos trilogy 27 Clear up 29 In the thick of 31 401(k) alternative 32 Cove 34 "Phooey!" 38 Groups of species 40 Some of the family 42 Whale group 43 Jurist Robert Falco 45 "The Thin Man" dog 47 Got bigger 48 Mad king of literature 49 Vortex 52 Charged bit 53 Witticism

Solution time: 21 mins.

HOED BAT CAGE
AFRO ELI IRIS
STAGNATE CARS
GOD DOABLE
GAMER BIRD
OVID PENTAGON
BOT TILTS ANI
INTAGLIO SLUG
TILE LEASH
SONOFA SEA
AKIN GUTENTAG
NINA ETA COLA
KEEL RAG EWER

Yesterday's answer 4-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Frances Capra, 26; Daniel Johns, 30; Eric Mabius, 38; Jack Nicholson, 72

Happy Birthday: You don't have to back down or take no for an answer this year. You can write your own ticket by being responsible. Stand up and be counted and push to achieve your goals. An unusual turn of events will evolve and you'll be the one in charge. Your numbers are 2, 7, 13, 26, 36, 44, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Communication is a must if you want to stay in control. Someone may try to upset your position or influence the outcome of something you are working toward. Someone will use underhanded tactics to try to beat you. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Go right to the top if you want to get something resolved. You will fall privy to secret information that will give you the edge. Use your charm, coupled with your knowledge and experience and you'll come across as confident and capable. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stick to whatever will benefit you professionally, personally and financially. You will face jealous and possessive acts if you lead someone on or you make a promise and don't keep it. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should receive an honor or raise or something that will improve your status. Someone may not like all the attention you are getting. Honesty will help you resolve any incident that crops up. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't get derailed by criticism you don't deserve. Greater involvement in challenging activities will raise your confidence and prove what you are capable of. Put your cash in a safe place and don't lend or borrow, regardless of the circumstances. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are ready to revamp your old ways, habits and lifestyle. Change bring more excitement to your life. There is money to be made if you pick up information or take courses that will broaden your skills. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Say what you mean and mean what you say. You'll be under the spotlight and your conduct will make a difference to the outcome of anything you are currently working towards personally and professionally. You can out maneuver anyone who challenges you. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can present and promote effectively. Love will come easy and someone you care for will be accommodating in every way imaginable. Show everyone what you have to offer. Your longtime goals are now within reach. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't stretch the truth if you don't want to be embarrassed. Your reputation may be compromised if you haven't been completely honest about what you are offering others. You can, however, make an impact at home and in your personal life. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will win if you challenge someone. Tak-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



ing an unusual path will help you learn something about who you are and what you are capable of doing. You can learn from past experiences, as well. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Not everyone will think the same way you do. Expect opposition and prepare to compromise if you want to resolve issues and get things done. It's never too late to start something new or to go back and get something or someone you left behind. ***

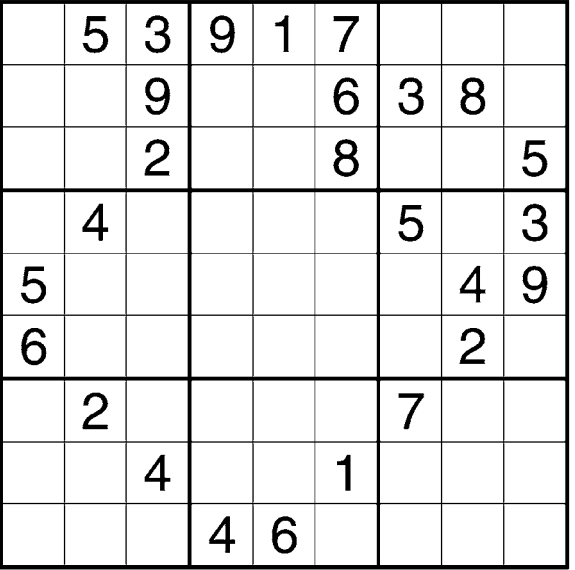
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't make a noise unless you are prepared to back up your accusations with lots of proof. Someone will push back if you decide you want to take over or have things your way. Personal relationships will be emotional, passionate and full of excitement. ***

Birthday Baby: You are far-reaching, intelligent and original. You are passionate, caring and can be explosive. You can effectively combine your communication skills with your charm.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/22 ©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	1	3	8	2	5	4	7
3	4	8	9	7	5	2	1	6
5	2	7	1	4	6	9	8	3
1	3	9	4	5	8	7	6	2
2	6	4	7	1	9	8	3	5
8	7	5	6	2	3	1	9	4
9	5	3	8	6	7	4	2	1
4	8	2	5	3	1	6	7	9
7	1	6	2	9	4	3	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/21

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EARTH DAY Solution: 7 letters

S R G E V L O V E N O Z O F T
S E E R T E N A L P C W L N E
S S I C A L P L E H O A E F R
T P E T Y S P U O R G M I A U
R O R N I C S E G E E L R R T
E N L I E N L R T V D Y E M A
A S A G N R U E O L N G T E N
M I R N T G A M I O U E A R I
S B U I E C S W M L T S W S M
U I T V H E E E A O L S O S A
P L A I R A R T K O C W R D L
P I N L T E E G O A O A L I S
O T A H C N V H I R L L D K U
R Y E M I T C I K F P L A N T
T R S E A S O N R A T E H T P

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Yesterday's Answer: I Am Sam
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Plaintiff,

vs.

The Estate of SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG, Deceased, and SUSAN K. SOMORANG,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0476

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 5, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 1548, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 885 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 14232 on May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 1, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 9th day of March, 2009.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,)
Plaintiff,) Civil Action
vs.) No.-08-0080-ev
WILLIAM S. AGULTO)
and) **AMENDED**
CANDELARIA Y. AGULTO,) **SUMMONS**
Defendants.)

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT
WILLIAM S. AGULTO AND CANDELARIA K. AGULTO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950. In case of failure to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 25th day of March, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Dandan Tire Shop

USED TIRE

JOETEN DANDAN

235-7835

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Saipan Tribune

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Allen helps Celtics even series against Bulls



BOSTON (AP)—Ray Allen picked the perfect time to snap out of his shooting slump.

Allen made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 2 seconds left and finished with 30 points, leading the Boston Celtics a 118-115 win over the Chicago Bulls in Game 2 of their playoff series Monday night.

Ben Gordon nearly carried Chicago to a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series. He scored with 12.3 seconds left to tie it, and had a playoff career-high 42 points. Then Boston set up a play for Allen, who took a pass from Rajon Rondo and connected from the right side.

Allen had just four points on 1-for-12 shooting in Boston's 105-103 overtime loss on Saturday and missed the final shot.

The next two games of the series are scheduled for Chicago on Thursday night and Sunday.

Allen scored 28 points in the second half, which turned into a shootout between the All-Star guard and Gordon.

Consecutive 3-pointers by Gordon gave the Bulls a 109-104 lead before the Celtics rallied. Glen Davis made two free throws and Rondo connected on a long jumper to give Boston a 112-111 lead with 1:01 to play.

Gordon followed with a 16-foot jumper and Allen countered with a 3-pointer that put Boston ahead 115-113 with 25.3 seconds remaining.

Then it was Gordon's turn. He connected from near the foul line before the Celtics called a timeout to set up their final play.

Rondo dribbled on the left side and Allen worked himself free, caught the pass in rhythm and converted as the crowd went wild. Tyrus Thomas then heaved a shot from beyond midcourt that fell short.

Allen ran to the bench where injured Kevin Garnett, wearing a sport coat and tie, slapped him on the head and chest. On his way to the locker room, coach Doc Rivers shouted, "yeah, yeah," pumped his fist and exchanged high-fives with fans.

Then, headed to his postgame news conference, Rivers joked, "nice and easy, never a doubt."

Glen Davis had 26 points for second-seeded Boston, passing his career high of 24 points on March 21, and Rondo had a triple-double—19 points, 16 assists and 12 rebounds. Paul Pierce added 18 points and Kendrick Perkins contributed 16 points and 12 rebounds.

John Salmons had 17 points and Brad Miller scored 16 for Chicago.

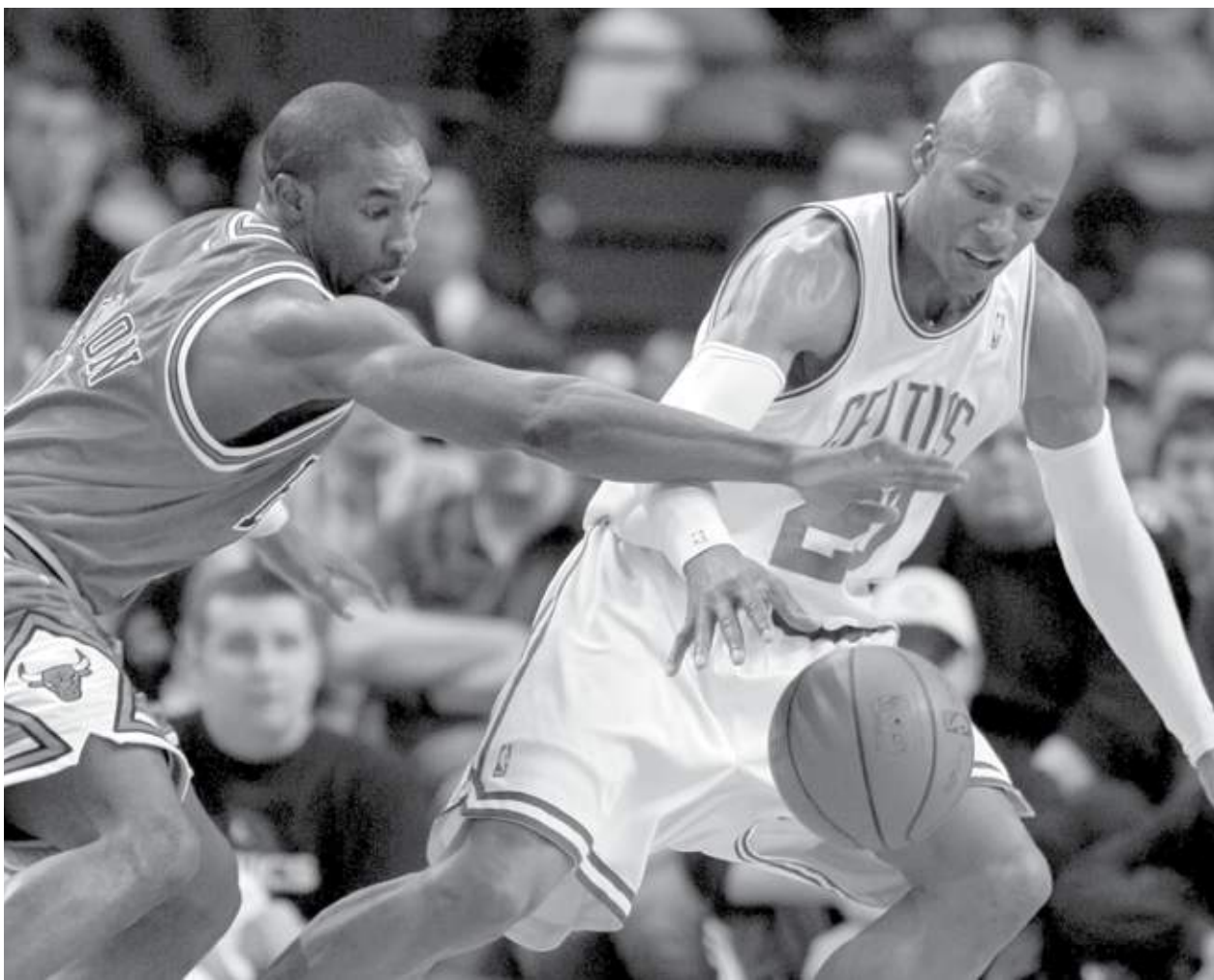
The Celtics nearly lost despite controlling rookie point guard Derrick Rose. He finished with 10 points, seven assists and six rebounds after leading the Bulls with 36 points and 11 assists on Saturday.

Rondo missed the last 5:03 of the first half with a minor right ankle sprain but returned to start the third quarter. Backup forward Leon Powe didn't return to the bench after going to the locker room early in the second quarter. He hobbled away but there was no announcement of his injury.

Spurs 105, Mavericks 84

At San Antonio, Tony Parker wasn't about to let the Dallas Mavericks leave San Antonio with two wins.

Parker walked off the court with 38 points, a comfortable lead and a roar-



Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen, right, dribbles past Chicago Bulls guard Ben Gordon on a drive to the basket in the second half of a first-round NBA basketball playoff game Monday, April 20, 2009, in Boston.

Cavs' Brown honored as NBA coach of year

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—Like his first year in Cleveland, LeBron James' second NBA season ended without a trip to the playoffs. The miss was inexcusable to Cavaliers rookie owner Dan Gilbert, who set out an immediate coaching search so it wouldn't happen again.

Gilbert plucked a highly regarded assistant off Indiana's staff, a likable guy who vowed to instill a defense-first identity in Cleveland.

The hiring wasn't well received.

"Who the heck is Mike Brown?"

Cavs general manager Danny Ferry recalled as the overriding sentiment back then.

Four years later, here's an updated answer: coach of the year.

Brown, who has taken Cleveland to the postseason in each of his four seasons, was honored Monday as the league's top coach after leading the Cavaliers to 66 wins, a Central Division title and the No. 1 overall playoff seed following the greatest regular season in club history.

With James and the other Cavaliers standing behind him and his coaching staff seated a few feet away, Brown humbly accepted the Red Auerbach trophy.

"If they did not want me to coach them, I wouldn't be able to coach them," he said. "I look at this as a partnership. Yes, my name is on this, but this is the ultimate team award from a coaching standpoint. I haven't put on a uniform or done anything out on

the floor. The players have done it all. The coaching staff has done a lot and when you win an award like this, you can't do it by yourself.

"You have some great people around you."

None greater than James, the likely league MVP, who feels Brown has been overlooked mostly because he has a superstar at his disposal.

"That was the main reason," James said. "But that doesn't take away from the fact that we still have to go out there and play for him and abide by his system. There are a lot of teams with great talent, but that doesn't automatically qualify you as a good coach or give you wins.

"It just showed this year how good of a coach he is."

Brown joins Bill Fitch in 1976 as the only Cleveland coaches to win the award.

Expected to be a close vote, Brown won in a landslide. He received 55 first-place votes and earned 355 total points from a panel of 122 sports writers and broadcasters, who awarded five points for first, three points for second and one point for third.

Houston's Rick Adelman was second with 151 points, one ahead of Orlando's Stan Van Gundy. Both got 13 first-place votes. Portland's Nate McMillan was first on 15 ballots and finished fourth with 127 points.

New Orleans coach Byron Scott won the award last year.

Preaching the importance of trust

to his players since training camp, Brown has created a tightly knit team fronted by James, who led the applause for his coach during the news conference at Cleveland's training facility. The 38-year-old Brown also has given more authority to his assistants, a sign of both his maturity as a coach and confidence as a leader.

"This is our fourth year together," Brown said. "The biggest thing this year was finding that elusive word chemistry among a group of individuals to try and reach one goal. Our goal has not changed, but the thing that we felt would help define chemistry is trust. They have shown tremendous trust in one and other. We've tried as a staff to show trust in them and in order to help that I had to show trust in my assistants."

As he complimented his assistants, James, Delonte West and other players reached over and began patting assistants Mike Malone, John Kuester, Hank Egan, Melvin Hunt and Chris Jent on their backs.

"I had to show our players that I trust those guys," Brown said. "We can talk about something and I can turn my back to it and we know the job is going to get done."

Ferry praised Brown for an unmatched work ethic. Brown's attention to detail has endeared him to his players and staff, but like any successful coach, the long hours have taken away time from the father of two's family. Brown's wife, Carolyn, was on hand to see him get the award.

He did it all against the Mavericks, who head back to Dallas for Game 3 on Thursday night. Dallas was trying to send the Spurs to consecutive home playoff losses for the first time since 2002, but couldn't contain San Antonio's speedy point guard.

Parker had 27 points in the first half and finished 16-of-22 from the floor. It was a marked difference from Game 1, when the Mavs let Parker score 24 but made him a non-factor in the second half, when he made just two field goals.

"First of all you have to meet the challenge," Mavs guard Jason Terry said of guarding Parker. "We had four or five different guys on him."

It still wasn't enough. Parker had 19 points in the first quarter alone, equaling the Mavericks' total.

Parker departed with about 5 minutes left in the fourth to a raucous ovation—and with the leading man out of the game, many fans headed to the exits as Parker took his seat.

Terry had 16 for Dallas, and Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Kidd had 14 points. Josh Howard scored just seven points after torching the Spurs for 25 in Game 1.

"I guess a split in San Antonio in a tough building is not bad," Nowitzki said. "But if you win the first one you always want to get the second one. You're not happy with a split after you get the first one."

Nowitzki said his left thumb needed to be taped after someone hit it. He said the same thumb was jammed several months ago and that it hurt when hit again Monday, but he was able to finish the game.

The Mavericks beat the Spurs 105-97 on Saturday night for their first road playoff victory in three years. But it was hardly rare territory for San Antonio: The Spurs have come back to win four series after losing Game 1 since 2002.

They put together a convincing response in the second game and the frustration for Dallas could be seen all the way down its bench. Mavs owner Mark Cuban punched a water cooler as San Antonio pulled away in the fourth.

The Mavericks haven't won a playoff series since 2006. Winning the opener was a start, but they'll have to figure out another way to stop Parker in Game 3.

The Mavericks were a favorite target all season for Parker, who averaged more than 31 points and seven assists in four regular-season meetings this season. He had 24 points in Game 1 but the Mavs kept him under control by using different defenders, including the pesky Jose Barea.

The approach didn't work this time.

Parker fell three points of his playoff high of 41, set last year in the first round against Phoenix.

"I try to stay the same and take whatever they give me," Parker said. "Tonight in the first half they were going under the pick and roll and my outside shot was going. And then I was able to penetrate."

Tim Duncan had 13 points and 11 rebounds, and Drew Gooden had 13 for the Spurs.

Dallas shot just 39 percent from the field. The Spurs also dominated on the glass, outrebounding Dallas 44-28.

"We talked about sustaining," Duncan said. "Obviously we had a great start to the game and got out to a lead. We understand the third and fourth quarter last game we really let off the gas. Defensively we wanted to stay solid, and I thought we did a really good job of doing that and playing more of 48 minutes."

Ortiz legs out triple as Red Sox top O's



BOSTON (AP)—Dustin Pedroia went 4-for-6 with three run-scoring singles and David Ortiz had a two-run triple to lead the Boston Red Sox to a 12-1 win over Baltimore, completing a four-game sweep of the Orioles in the Patriots' Day game Monday afternoon. Jason Varitek hit a solo homer and Jacoby Ellsbury had three hits to highlight Boston's season-highs in runs and hits (15).

The win was the fifth straight for the Red Sox, who won their sixth consecutive Patriots' Day game; and 27th in their last 33 at Fenway Park against Baltimore.

Boston led 3-1 before scoring three runs in the sixth and six in the seventh. The Orioles lost their fifth straight after a 6-2 start.

Justin Masterson (1-0), who replaced injured starter Daisuke Matsuzaka, held the Orioles to one run and four singles in 5 1/3 innings. He walked two and struck out three.

Cesar Izturis drove in Baltimore's run with an infield hit.

The Red Sox jumped on Mark Hendrickson (1-2) for a pair of first-inning runs before Fenway was filled on a chilly morning with its 476th straight sellout. Pedroia's RBI single made it 1-0 after Ellsbury reached for a double when his pop ticked off the glove of shortstop Izturis' glove in shallow left. Rocco Baldelli's groundout scored Pedroia.

Varitek's homer into the top of the Green Monster seats, where fans were turning around at times to see the Boston Marathon's runners make their way through Kenmore Square, made it 3-0.

Pedroia's RBI single and Ortiz's triple off the left-center

field wall, just past a lunging attempt by center fielder Felix Pie, made it 6-1 against reliever Dennis Sarfate in the sixth.

Mike Lowell had an RBI double and RBI single to go along with run-scoring singles by Ellsbury, Pedroia and Kevin Youkilis in the seventh.

Hendrickson gave up three runs, five hits, walked three and struck out six in six innings. He's 0-5 with an 8.05 ERA in eight career Fenway starts.

Baltimore third baseman Ryan Freel left the game in the third after getting hit in the head by Masterson's pickoff attempt at second. He was flat on his stomach for a few minutes before being helped to his feet and aided to the dugout by a pair of Orioles' trainers.

Red Sox left-hander Hunter Jones made his major-league debut and pitched a hitless ninth.

Baldelli left the game in the top of the fourth with a mild strained left hamstring.

Pirates 8, Marlins 0

At Pittsburgh, Ross Ohlendorf allowed two hits over seven innings during Pittsburgh's third shutout in four games and Nate McLouth drove in four runs as the Pirates ended Florida's seven-game winning streak.

The Marlins began the night with a major league-best 11-1 record and were coming off three consecutive come-from-behind victories in their final at-bat in Washington. This time, they fell behind 1-0 in the first



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz, right, hits a two-run triple in front of Baltimore Orioles' Gregg Zaun in the sixth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 20, 2009, in Boston.

and never caught up during their first loss in seven road games.

Ohlendorf (1-2), finally getting some run support, won for the first time in eight starts since being traded to the Pirates by the Yankees last season.

Andrew Miller (0-1) took the loss.

Reds 4, Astros 3

At Houston, Joey Votto's two-

run double in the seventh inning lifted the Reds over the Astros.

Trailing 3-2, Paul Janish and Willy Taveras singled before Votto's hit helped the Reds win for the third time in four games.

Bronson Arroyo (2-1) allowed three runs and nine hits in seven innings. Arthur Rhodes got out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth by striking out Hunter Pence. Francisco Cordero then

pitched the ninth for his fifth save in five tries.

Geoff Geary (0-2) took the loss.

Nationals 3, Braves 2

At Washington, highly touted pitching prospect Jordan Zimmermann won his major league debut, throwing six strong innings in the Nationals' rainy victory over the Braves.

Zimmermann (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits, with three strikeouts and a walk.

The paid attendance of 12,473 set a new low for the team since it moved from Montreal to Washington. Drizzles all afternoon and into the evening resulted in a delay at the start of 2 hours, 10 minutes. There was also a 33-minute delay in the eighth, and only dozens of fans were still around when Joel Hanrahan pitched the ninth to earn his first save in three chances.

Jesus Flores drove in two runs off Derek Lowe (1-1).

Matt Diaz homered for Atlanta.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 3

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds homered and doubled, Miguel Montero added a three-run homer and the Diamondbacks defeated Colorado.

Reynolds hit a solo homer—his third—in the second inning and added an RBI double in the fourth off Jason Marquis (2-1), who is 0-4 lifetime at Chase Field.

Ian Stewart hit his third homer for the Rockies, who have dropped seven of eight to fall into a last-place tie with San Francisco in the NL West.

Jon Garland (2-1) went 6 2-3 innings, allowing one earned run and six hits. He walked two and struck out five.

Chad Qualls worked a perfect ninth for his third save in four chances.

Rams again have No. 2 pick, this time with new GM

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The St. Louis Rams have a glaring need at offensive tackle after releasing Orlando Pace, making that position a natural for the second overall pick of the NFL draft.

Jason Smith of Baylor or Eugene Monroe of Virginia appear to be the best options to fill that void. The safe picks.

Wake Forest linebacker Aaron Curry also has made an impression. Or they could take a shot at reloading at wide receiver, a position weakened by the release of Torry Holt, with either Michael Crabtree of Texas Tech or Jeremy Maclin of Missouri.

"There's certain times in the draft as it goes on where you want to be like Albert Pujols, you can swing for the fences, you try to hit a home run," new general manager Billy Devaney said. "There's other times where it makes sense to try to be a Tony Gwynn, put the ball in play."

"Actually, you know what, you can use Albert Pujols at any time I guess. Forget Tony Gwynn."

Devaney, who has 24 years of NFL scouting and front office experience, is in charge on draft day for the first time in his career. Given the Rams have won only five games the last two seasons and their corresponding long list of needs, he seemingly can't go wrong with the pick.

Not that he was willing to dis-



In these university handouts and file photos top college football prospects for the 2009 NFL Draft are shown. They are: Clay Matthews, Rey Mualuga, Aaron Maybin, LeSean McCoy, Fili Moala, Eugene Monroe, William Moore, Knowshon Moreno, Shawn Nelson, Hakeem Nicks, Michael Oher and Brian Orakpo.

cuss individual players much, although he did admit Crabtree's stress fracture in his left foot was a negative.

"There's no perfect player in this group," Devaney said. "For Crabtree that's a red flag, but there's not many red flags on the guy."

The Rams also had the second pick last year and got a solid rookie season from defensive end Chris Long, with then-coach Scott Linehan making the selection. This year they're leaning more on those

behind the scenes, with Devaney recognizing college and pro scouts seated at the back of the auditorium at Rams Park before the team's predraft news conference Monday.

"You guys, raise your hands," Devaney said.

In past seasons, scouts submitted their reports and then walked away while the coaching staff assembled its draft board. This year, the scouts will prioritize the list.

"At the end of the day, that's what these guys do for a living,"

Devaney said. "They know these guys inside out, so we should lean on their opinions."

Borrowing a saying coined by front office gurus of the past, Devaney added: "Coaches coach, scouts scout, players play, and I'm a firm believer in that."

New coach Steve Spagnuolo appears content to take an advisory role on his first draft weekend. Of course, the scouts got a shopping list not long after Spagnuolo was hired in mid-January and know what the coaches want.

"The wealth of knowledge these guys gather is amazing," Spagnuolo said. "It always amazes me what these guys have been able to find out, and we've dug deep."

"We've factored it all in and hopefully we'll make those real smart decisions."

Devaney said the Rams are open to trading down on draft day, if they can find a partner and the price is right. That might be difficult given popular opinion that there are no true standouts in this class, but instead a batch of interchangeable talent.

"There doesn't seem to be any groundswell right now for one, two or three marquee guys teams are earmarking," Devaney said. "I'm sensing that's changing a little bit, so we'll have to see how that plays out."

Devaney believes the draft is deep in talent. But he pointed out he believes that every year and enjoys the challenge of picking long shots on the second day.

"We know darn well there's going to be some guys taken in the sixth and seventh round that we missed on and a bunch of other teams missed on, and they're going to have good years," Devaney said. "There's going to be college free agents that we all miss on that are going to come in and contribute."

"We want to be the team that hits on these guys."

Memphis freshman Evans tests NBA draft



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Memphis freshman guard Tyreke Evans has declared himself eligible for the NBA draft.

Evans says playing in the NBA has been a dream for him for a long time. He says he's putting his name out there and will talk to his family before deciding whether to stay in the draft or return for another season at Memphis.

The 6-foot-6 Associated Press All-America honorable mention led the Tigers in scoring with 17.1 points per game and steals with 7.7. He averaged 5.4 rebounds and 3.9 assists while shooting 45.5 percent from the field and 71.1 percent from the free-throw line.

Yho, Percy keep reign in April roll-off

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Percy Omechel and Yho Villavicencio claimed their second Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes monthly title after ruling the April roll-off at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Omechel, who won the February King of the Lanes crown, competed in the Sunday roll-off and had the lead in the first day of the tournament with his four-game total of 881 pinfalls and an average of 220.25.

Fifteen joined the Monday roll-off, hoping to surpass Omechel's score, but they failed.

The closest the 15 other male bowlers could get was within 17 pinfalls with Raul Dumapit tallying 864. Robert Talavera also had 864 pinfalls

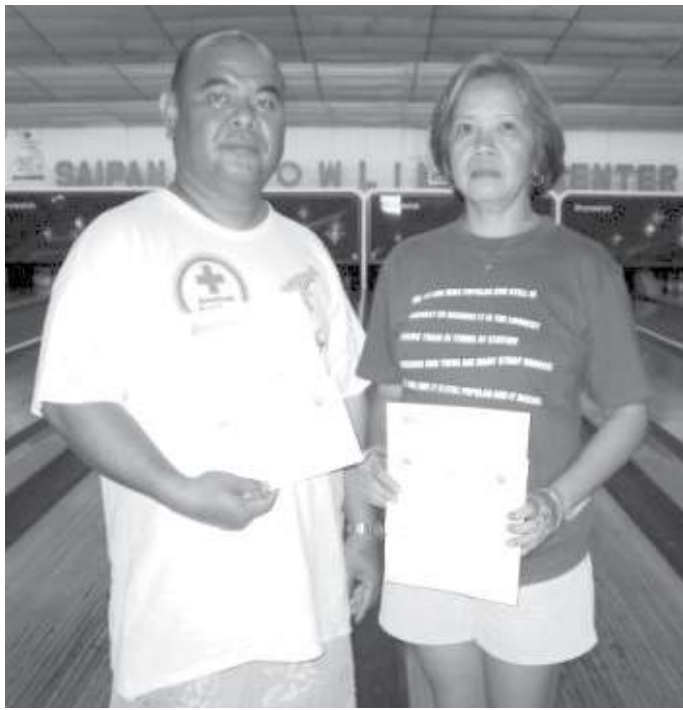
during the Sunday roll-off.

Alex Castro finished fourth with 805 pinfalls, while Omechel also owned the fifth best score, as he returned for the Monday roll-off and made 803 pinfalls.

Posting the Top 10 scores were Lito Teodoro (771), Tony Verdager (769), Alex Cadac (766), Talavera (755), and Jeremy Williams (738).

In the Queen of the Lanes tournament, Villavicencio came back to SBC and shattered her own mark. Villavicencio knocked 702 pins down in the first roll-off and had 26 pinfalls more in the Monday roll-off to retain the April title.

Villavicencio, who also won the February roll-offs, had a strong showing in the first two games, recording 187 and 201 pinfalls before slowing down in Game 3 with 158 pinfalls. She recovered in the last game



Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes April roll-off winners Percy Omechel, left, and Yho Villavicencio.

with 181 pinfalls.

Dropping to second place was Diane Camacho with 695 pinfalls, followed by Emi Williams (689), Elena Soll (661), Gigi Zapanta (655), Cora Muna (645), Lala Taitano (644), Gloria Omechel (636), and Gina Sablan (626).

Villavicencio and Omechel are the first multiple winners in the Budweiser roll-off and are two wins behind youth bowler Raphael Zapanta, who had ruled the first four stagings of the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament.

Raphael pocketed his fourth straight victory this season after tallying 667 pinfalls Sunday. He had a 48-pinfal lead over runner-up Troy Verdager, who scored 619 pinfalls. Nikko Gutierrez placed third with his 616 pinfalls, while Leeanne Yarobwemal finished fourth with her 523 pinfalls.

Sports clinic by pro triathletes tomorrow

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Professional triathletes who are here for the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest will be sharing their knowledge and skills tomorrow afternoon during a free sports clinic at the Pacific Islands Club.

The sports clinic, which will give an opportunity for athletes of

all types of sports events, will be held at from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

The first session will be about injury prevention to be conducted by triathlete and sports trainer Alan Collinson.

British pro Jim McConnel will join him for the session that is geared toward injury prevention.

McConnel, who finished sixth overall in the just-concluded 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship, will also give an inspirational talk

about sports and its lifetime benefits to athletes.

Then at 7pm a panel of pro triathletes that includes five-time women's XTERRA Saipan winner Renata Bucher of Switzerland, 2009 men's champion Sam Gardner of Great Britain, and 2008 champion Andrew Noble of Australia.

Bill Sakovich of the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation said this session would take about one and a half hours.

Sakovich is encouraging in-

terested participants to ask questions during the open forum.

The topic will be about training in general such as bike and swimming techniques, mountain running and biking, cross training, and anything related to sports.

Russ Quinn will be the moderator for the sessions.

Sakovich said both sessions are open to all athletes.

These activities are part of the ongoing 2009 Saipan Sportsfest.

After last Saturday's XTERRA Saipan, the next big event

will be the 20th Tagaman Triathlon with Bucher and Gardner looking as the top favorites to win the PIC Double.

The total times for both the local XTERRA and the Tagaman will be added.

The athlete with the fastest time combined will win the PIC Double, sponsored by PIC.

The winners on both the men's and women's divisions will be entitled to free accommodations at the PIC for the duration of next year's Sports Fest.

DALY

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total time of 2:52:21.

Kennedy won the women's division after surviving a flat tire. She owed half of her victory to Japanese Makoto Shimamoto, who helped her fix the flat tire. The former member of the CNMI beach volleyball team was fifth in the swim with her time of 14:52,

third in bike (2:11:23), and second in run (22:26).

Placing fourth overall and second in the women's division was Elizabeth Church, who recorded 2:54:18. She had 13:33 in the swim part, 2:12:55 in the bike leg, and 23:02 in the run portion.

James Barry was fifth overall and third in the men's division after completing the race in 3:22:36, followed by Jim Aren-

ovski (3:37:44), and Gester Garcia (3:49:36).

In the relay division, the two-person team of Monica Yamaguchi and Jeffrey Diycio defeated three other teams.

Yamaguchi did the swim and run parts of the relay, timing in at 14:36 and 18:11, respectively, while Diycio clocked 1:56:23 in the bike portion for a total time of 2:30:37. Yamaguchi and Diycio's time could be a few minutes low-

er if the former did not get lost in the run portion. Instead of going in straight to the loop en route to the finish line, Yamaguchi went to the side, as she thought she had to make another turn before entering the loop.

The PIC trio of Glenn Policare, James Abuy, and Lindsey Sosovec finished second with a combined time of 2:57:04. Policare posted 15:05 in the swim leg, Abuy finished the bike part at

2:18:29, while Sosovec clocked in at 21:35 in the run portion.

Completing the Top 3 was the MHS team of Marystar Welch, Danny Bai, and Heartim Williams. Welch was first out of the water, timing in under 10 minutes (9:59), while Bai and Williams logged 3:01:35 and 20:03 in the bike and run legs, respectively.

The duo of Harumi Sugihashi and Takayuki did not finish the race.

TINIAN

From Page 28

Manglona's footsteps and give triathlon a try.

"It was hard," was all he said moments after submitting a total time of four hours, 40 minutes, and 54 seconds.

"My legs started giving up but I just pushed it hard and moved on and finished the race," he said.

In the bike, Manglona crashed four times. "There's too many trenches," he said.

His time didn't warrant an invitation to this year's XTERRA World Championships but Manglona vowed to continue training to make it to Maui someday.

"I really want to go to Maui in the future," said the 21-year-old teacher at Tinian Headstart.

Manglona's time was good for 49th overall. He came in

54th in the swim (30:39), 46th in the bike (2:26:16), and 47th in the run (1:38:56).

"I will try to make it better next year," Manglona said, adding that the run portion was the hardest part of Saturday's race.

Manglona will also compete in next Saturday's Tagaman. "I want to try it and come back for a better finish," he said.

Quincy Johnson won the men's 20-24 years old division

by checking in a time of 4:23:37 (22:35 in the swim, 2:24:49 in the bike, and 1:36:13 in the run), 17 minutes ahead of Manglona.

Johnson actually almost didn't finish the race due to a flat tire. But thanks to Janet King, he was able to complete the course after the former Miss CNMI and Public Defender loaned him her bike.

Ironically, King like Manglona is from Tinian. She was also one

of Manglona's first well-wishers after he crossed the finish line.

Saipan's Lewie Tenorio also extended a congratulatory message to Manglona.

Tenorio finished in 21st place and earned an invitation for this year's World Championships, which could lead a way for the first Chamorro pro triathlete.

He clocked in at 3:47:30, which was good for third place in his age bracket (35-39).

AUSSIE

From Page 28

ing experience at the regional and state levels in Australia.

Reflecting on his experience at the Olympics, Loneragan said, "The Beijing Olympics was a special time, and to be a part of international sport's biggest showcase was the opportunity to a lifetime. International basketball continues to improve and the standard of competition and

athleticism at Beijing was a step up even from the World Championships just two years prior. The Opals are a special team to be part of, and the Olympic silver medal is a wonderful achievement for our nation."

Loneragan is looking forward to the Oceania Tournament.

"The Australian team will be a young and athletic group and have a unique opportunity to represent their country in a prestigious event in a beautiful part of the world. We are looking for-

ward to the challenge of playing against teams from throughout Oceania and enjoying the culture of your wonderful country."

Elias Rangamar, president of the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, which is organizing the tournament under the auspices of FIBA Oceania, welcomed the news of Loneragan's appointment.

"It's a real privilege to participate in a tournament involving such high level coaches and players, especially a coach as

distinguished as Peter Loneragan. I'm sure that every one of the Island nations in the tournament will learn something from Coach Loneragan."

The Oceania Tournament will be held in Saipan from June 20 to June 28. Australia and New Zealand, along with Pacific basketball powerhouses New Caledonia, Fiji, Tahiti, and Guam, and our North Pacific neighbor Palau, will send national men's and women's teams to compete with CNMI's best.

Gold sponsors for the tournament so far include CNMI business anchors Tan Holdings and the Joeten Charitable Foundation. Rangamar expressed his appreciation to these companies, and noted that additional sponsorship opportunities are still available for companies who want to take advantage of associating with this prestigious tournament.

For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Rangamar at 664-2502, or Mike White at 234-6547. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	10	4	.714	-
Boston	7	6	.538	2 1/2
New York	7	6	.538	2 1/2
Baltimore	6	7	.462	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	5	8	.385	4 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	7	5	.583	-
Detroit	7	5	.583	-
Kansas City	7	5	.583	-
Minnesota	7	7	.500	1
Cleveland	4	9	.308	3 1/2

West Division

Seattle	8	5	.615	-
Oakland	5	7	.417	2 1/2
Texas	5	7	.417	2 1/2
Los Angeles	4	8	.333	3 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	11	2	.846	-
New York	6	6	.500	4 1/2
Atlanta	6	7	.462	5
Philadelphia	5	6	.455	5
Washington	2	10	.167	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	7	4	.636	-
St. Louis	8	5	.615	-
Cincinnati	7	5	.583	1/2
Pittsburgh	7	6	.538	1
Milwaukee	4	8	.333	3 1/2
Houston	4	9	.308	4

West Division

Los Angeles	10	3	.769	-
San Diego	9	4	.692	1
Arizona	5	8	.385	5
Colorado	4	8	.333	5 1/2
San Francisco	4	8	.333	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 8, Florida 0
Washington 3, Atlanta 2
San Diego at Philadelphia, ppd.,
Cincinnati 4, Houston 3
Arizona 6, Colorado 3
Boston 12, Baltimore 1
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees, ppd.

By The Associated Press

DOCOMO

From Page 28

returning from injury and playing in the playoffs.

"We had problems in the regular season because our key players were not healthy. Ponce [Rasa], Mark [Wallace], and Ed [Diaz] were injured and saw limited minutes in the regular season," John said.

Rasa played only in the last game in the regular season, but was present in all of Docomo's playoff matches. He made 13 points in the finals, making crucial baskets in the stretch to foil Ol'Aces' rally. Diaz played only two games and could not make it to the playoffs.

Wallace also missed a lot of games in the regular season, but was consistently at the forefront of Docomo's offense in the playoffs. He fired a team-high 23 points in the title match.

Other Docomo players missed several games, too due to work commitments and the team finished the regular season in fifth place with a 5-7 record. But from being the fifth seeded team in the playoffs, Docomo rose to the top at the end of the season.

"I think, winning the championship also had something to do with our players peaking and jelling at the right time," John said.

"We had a lot of talented players and when you put them in one team, it takes time before they blend. I am glad they got the feeling of each other's game at the start of the playoffs," added Sablan, who thanked Docomo Pacific and Figo for their support to the team's title campaign.

8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship

PHOTOS By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Swimmers dash off Micro Beach at the start of the 2-kilometer swim of the 8th Annual XTERRA World Championship.



The Top 3 men are, from left, Mike Vine of Canada (second), Sam Gardner of Great Britain (champion), and third place Sascha Wingenfeld of Germany (third).



Takahiro Ogasawara of Japan was running third at this stage of the race in the 8th Annual XTERRA World Championship.



Andrew Noble of Australia pushes his bike in last Saturday's 8th Annual XTERRA World Championship.



The pro women get their medals at the end of the 8th Annual XTERRA World Championship. From left, runner-up Julie Dibens of Great Britain, champion Renata Bucher of Switzerland, third place Shonny Vandlingham of the U.S., and fourth place Mieko Carey of Saipan.



Taro Shirato of Japan passes through the woods in last Saturday's 8th Annual XTERRA World Championship.



Saipan Chamber of Commerce president and Delta Management top honcho Jim Arenovski takes a needed rest in the woods.



Veteran triathlete Fred Camacho is spotted at the corner of Waserak Drive and Tapochao Road.



Mike Vine of Canada carries his bike in one of the jungle trails of last Saturday's 8th Annual XTERRA World Championship.



Reigning XTERRA World Champion winner Julie Dibens of Great Britain is shown here before the start of the swim of last Saturday's 8th Annual XTERRA World Championship.



Allen helps Celtics even series against Bulls
Ray Allen picked the perfect time to snap out of his shooting slump.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Yho, Percy keep reign in April roll-off

Percy Omechelang and Yho Vilavicencio claimed their second Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes monthly title after ruling the April roll-off at the Saipan Bowling Center.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Docomo completes Cinderella season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Coach cites composure as key to win vs. Ol'Aces

Docomo Pacific coach John Sablan believes it pays to keep your cool in the game, especially in a crucial one.

Sablan's wards had their tempers in check in their title match against Ol'Aces in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League, helping Docomo notch the championship via an 88-80 win last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

"While Ol'Aces were busy arguing with referees, I told our plays to keep their cool, don't mind the calls, and focus on our game," Sablan said.

Docomo Pacific did not hide its disappointment with the officiating in the regular season of the Budweiser caging, arguing with referees oftentimes and even going out to the media to vocally protest questionable calls. But in the finals, Docomo did not let its frustration over the officiating take over its game, allowing the team to focus on its match against Ol'Aces.

Docomo didn't have to look



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and supporters of Docomo Pacific pose for a group photo after winning the championship of the Budweiser caging Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

far for an example, as Sablan himself knows how a short fuse could lead a team or a player to

the losing end.

The Docomo coach was meted a five-year suspension

last year, after he and his team (Ulloa's) got involved in an ugly fight against the Southern

Sonics on Jan. 21, 2008, during the Budweiser caging. Besides John, his brother, Josh, and



cousin, Henry, were also barred from playing in BANMI-organized league.

"Look guys, I wished I could play there and help the team win. But I can't. You have the opportunity I don't have, so don't waste it arguing with referees. Let's play our game and let the other team do the arguing," Sablan told his players at halftime.

Docomo players responded to Sablan's challenge, as the team buckled down to work and recovered from a 13-point deficit in the third period.

"When we came back in the closing minutes of the third quarter and Ol'Aces continued to argue with the referees, that sort of shifted the momentum to us," Sablan said.

"That's all we need, a slight opportunity to get our game going and forget the referees' calls," the Docomo coach said.

Sablan added they were fortunate they had their key players

See **DOCOMO** on Page 26

Daly, Kennedy top XTERRA Sport

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Xterra Saipan showed little or no signs of an ACL injury in his victory in the Sport division of the 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship Saturday.

Daly crossed the finish line at the American Memorial Park with ease, completing the .643-kilometer swim leg, 15-km. bike part, and the 6.7-km. run in two

RELATED NEWS

Sports clinic by pro triathletes tomorrow

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hours and .02 seconds.

"It was an easier race compared to last year, where the trails and the roads were damp. I had a relatively easier time doing the bike and run legs this morning. The water was great, too. It was not that cold," said Daly, who did not finish last year's Championship race.

"Last year I hit a dog coming down China Town hill and did not finish the race, as I



Daly

damaged my ACL, PCL, and meniscus," Daly said.

"It has taken one year to heal and I still cannot run very well. So I thought I could make the 5K run if I did the Sport," he added.

Despite the injury, Daly still had the best time in the run leg, clocking in at 18:47. He logged 10:41 in the swim portion and was one of the only two riders who timed in at under two hours



Kennedy

in the bike part with his 1:28:13.

Runner-up Paul Viator was the other Sport participant to clock in under two hours in the bike portion with his 1:59:22. Viator tallied 13:37 in the swim part and 27:01 in the run for a total time of 2:44:34.

Heather Kennedy was the third overall finisher and first in the women's division with her

See **DALY** on Page 26



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Lewie Tenorio of Saipan and Joshua Manglona of Tinian pose at the finish line of last Saturday's 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Tinian's Manglona glad to finish XTERRA Saipan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Tinian's first XTERRA Saipan Championship competitor Joshua Manglona is more than happy to make it to the finish line of Saturday's race.

For Manglona, completing

the eighth staging of the grueling race was already a big achievement not only for him as an athlete but also for his home island.

His experience could also serve as an eye opener for athletes from Tinian to follow

See **TINIAN** on Page 26

Aussie Olympic coach to lead young Opals

Basketball Australia has selected Australian Olympic coach Peter Lonergan to lead the Australian women's team at the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament in Saipan.

Lonergan served as assistant coach of the Australian Opals Women's National Team at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, where the Opals took the silver medal.

He has also served as assistant coach for the Women's National Team at the 2006 FIBA World Championships in Brazil, and the 2007 William Jones Cup, and participated in the Opals' pre-Olympics tours of China, Spain, and Italy. He serves as head coach of the Australian Under 17 Women's National Team. He also has extensive coach-

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